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PAGES 23-25 **A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD**

Celebrating Christmas in
Penarth & DINAS POWYS
Pages 27-28

Llantwit Major **ALIVE WITH LIGHTS**
PAGES 17-19 *this Christmas*



Porthcawl Comprehensive School pulled out all the stops during Children in Need week – and it was a great success.

Pictured above, by Malcolm Nugent, are the school's 'Head Team' who adopted a Disney animated movie theme.

For a full report, and for more great photos by Malcolm, go to pages 5 and 37.

'My role is to make people happy!' SAYS AWARD-WINNING CARE HOME WORKER

A SINGING care worker's night in the limelight at the sector's 'Oscars' ended on a high note – after he won a top prize.

Rob Thomas (31), from Bridgend, had his musical theatre dream dashed by major brain surgery at the age of 18, but he still goes out of his way to bring a smile to the residents of Picton Court, at Nottage, near Porthcawl.

His job as the activities organiser at the home, which provides residential, nursing and dementia care, is to brighten the lives of the 76 residents aged 60 to 103, by arranging activities and entertainment.

But recently Rob let someone else do

the organising when he was nominated for a prestigious Wales Care Award. A glittering presentation evening at Cardiff City Hall saw him rewarded for his hard work and enthusiasm with a silver Promoting Fulfilled Lives Award, sponsored by Boots.

Rob's tenor voice is in much demand, particularly for the old favourite songs and he also organises quizzes, takes residents out for meals – 25 of them were guests at a Rotary lunch recently – and arranges other activities.

He will often take a wheelchair-bound resident shopping or for a coffee and a chat, and he holds raffles and other events to pay for some of the treats.

Music was his first love and he

trained at Bridgend College with the West End and musical theatre in his sights until major brain surgery curtailed his professional singing career.

He said: "Basically my brain was too big for my head and was causing major problems with my spinal column. I made a good recovery, but performing professionally would have been impossible."

He still worked in pubs and clubs and toured in cabaret shows and he still occasionally performs locally. He recently joined Porthcawl Male Voice Choir.

He said: "I absolutely love the job and I'm very honoured to be short-listed for the awards even if I'm a little embarrassed, to be honest. My role is to

make people happy, to show them that this is just a new chapter in their lives and to give a bit back to them.

"The best part is seeing the smiles on the residents' faces when they've enjoyed something I do – that means the world to me.

"Care homes sometimes get a bad press and you don't hear about the wonderful things they are achieving. What attracted me to this job was to be able to make a difference."

"I've been three years in the care sector and I enjoy what I am doing. I arrange everything, from armchair aerobics to outdoor activities and to see people happy and enjoying their surroundings is reward enough."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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'We should all be on our guard against bullying'

NOVEMBER 14-18 was Anti-Bullying Week, an awareness campaign to raise the profile of the work being done to combat bullying across the UK and signpost the support services on offer to those being bullied.

While no one likes to think of their children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, pupils or even friends being bullied, it is sadly a daily occurrence for thousands of children across Wales. It is as much of a concern to children and young people now as it was a generation ago.

Whether you're a parent, carer or professional, or a young person, there is help and support available. Take some time to learn about the tell-tale signs of bullying and the resources available to help those young people affected.

Bullying takes on many forms today and in the case of cyber bullying, is often faceless. This can undoubtedly make recognising the signs

and uncovering the problem more difficult. Most common signs include anxiety, irritability and, in some instances, a lack of appetite, although these vary from case to case and some signs are more difficult to spot.

For readers who recognise some of these signs in their children or any young people they know, take the time to speak to them about it and reassure them that help is available.

For more information on the signs to look out for and advice on how to support victims of bullying, visit Meic, the information, advice and advocacy helpline for children and young people on 080880 23456 or contact my independent investigation and advice Service for free on 0800 801 1000.

Too many children and young people report everyday experiences of bullying. Let's work together to ensure that they learn and live in schools and communities where they feel safe, so that each and every one can reach their full potential. **Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales.**

Musical journey of the Nativity

P O R T H C A W L Choral Society will present an 'Evening of Christmas Music' at All Saints Church, Porthcawl on Friday, December 2 at 7pm.

The concert will follow the story of the Nativity and is directed by their conductor Angharad Edwards, accompanied by Sheila Miles.

They will be joined by soprano Elinor Williams, and harpist Georgie Davies, and the Porthcawl

Community Orchestra.

There will be mince pies and wine available in the interval and a chance to look around the wonderful Christmas tree display organised by the Rotary Club of Porthcawl and supported by town organisations and charities.

Tickets £6; programme (including raffle ticket) £1 available at the door. Call 01656 784211 or 01656 784180 for further details.

'Thank you to the Princess of Wales'

IWOULD like to thank all the medical staff and housekeeping staff at the Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend, who were very kind to me and helpful during my short stay in Block M Ward 8 (Blue).

Keith Owen,
North Cornell.

Age Connects concert to support the over-50s



THE Age Connects Morgannwg charity, which helps older people (those aged 50-plus) live a healthier, more active and independent life is hosting a fundraising evening of musical entertainment by Côr Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch on November 25, 6.30pm-10pm, Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall, CF35 5PE.

For tickets (£5) contact Tracey Morris on tracey.morris@acmorgannwg.org.uk or call 01443 490650.

Admission is by ticket only and all proceeds will go to the Reaching Out project in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend aimed at people who are 'socially isolated'.

Entrepreneurial Bridgend students pop up in Cardiff

A SEXTET OF entrepreneurial students from Bridgend College have won the opportunity to run their own pop-up Christmas boutique this December, in Cardiff's Morgan Quarter, following a competition run by First Campus and Big Ideas Wales.

The Enterprise Skills Day held at Cardiff City stadium on November 18, brought together 120 of the most entrepreneurial college students from across south Wales and set them a series of skills based challenges, to determine which of them would go on to manage stalls in a pop-up Christmas boutique in Cardiff city centre - in an initiative known as 'Trading Places'.

A new-look new event to mark Global Entrepreneurship Week, the Enterprise Skills Day aims to inspire the next generation of young Welsh entrepreneurs, through a series of theoretical and practical challenges.

The Bridgend College winners

will go on to manage a number of festive stalls at the 'Trading Places' Christmas boutique. The stalls will be operated by six teams of six students, with each student in a team hailing from a different college from across south Wales. Other colleges participating in the event are Cardiff and Vale College, Coleg Gwent, Coleg y Cymoedd and St David's Catholic College.

Ruth Rowe, entrepreneurship officer at Bridgend College, said: "Events like Big Ideas Wales' Enterprise Skills Day and Trading Places give our students a unique opportunity to learn from established Welsh entrepreneurs and test their innovation,

creativity and fortitude in a competitive business context.

"Working collaboratively with students from other colleges, formulating entrepreneurial ideas of their own, and facing some very real challenges equips them with vital real world skills - all of which is integral in aiding their personal development."

Housed within Cardiff's Morgan Quarter, this UK award winning project has helped inspire a change in business strategy for the privately owned arcade, who have hosted previous Big Ideas Wales events.

Trading Places will take place on December 15 in Cardiff's Morgan Quarter (CF10 1AF).

Bridgend variety night

BRIDGEND Male Choir (BMC) is looking forward to its concert on November 25 at the Sony Theatre, Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend.

A night of entertainment with BMC in concert with Mike Doyle and special guests the Bridgend Rock Choir (BRC). BMC members see themselves first and foremost as a concert choir, with an expanding repertoire of classical and folk pieces, traditional Welsh anthems, spirituals and popular songs from the shows.

Mike Doyle is one of a rare breed of

entertainers around today, a true variety artist in every sense of the word, equally at home as a singer, comedian, actor or TV and radio presenter.

Over the past few years, BRC has come to prominence with its unique mix of en-masse singing, fundraising, television appearances, and emphasis on supporting local communities. The BRC believes it's the members that make the choir truly fantastic and offers a variety of pop, rock and Motown songs.

Tickets will be available at the door on the night.

MARTIN CADOGAN

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KPC launches Christmas challenge appeal to help make life better for youngsters

KPC Youth & Community, based in Pyle, has been selected to take part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2016, the UK's largest match funding campaign.

KPC will be raising money for its 'Making Life Better' project, to help it continue KPC open access funding and offer young people advice, support and activities to give them better chances in life.

"KPC has been working with young people and our wider community since opening its doors on

November 28, 1998 (nearly 18 years ago!) - we want to see it continue and hope you can support us with this!" a spokeswoman said.

"Any donations, starting at just £5, to this project will be matched for 72 hours from 12pm on November 29, #GivingTuesday.

"The campaign ends at 12pm on Friday, December 2.

"We will be able to double donations while our match funds last, so please make sure you donate to our project, Making Life Better."

secure.thebiggive.org.uk/donation/to/6893/kpc-youth-and-community.

Memories sought on 'Raleigh' bikes

AWARD-WINNING documentary company Testimony Films is making a new documentary for BBC4, celebrating the history of the Raleigh Bicycle Company and the bicycles that revolutionised cycling in Britain. We would love to

hear from people born in the 1920s and 1930s who had, or still own, a Raleigh bike.

If you would like to share your memories, please get in touch with Emily Syiver on 0117 925 8589; email: emily.syiver@testimonyfilms.com; or 12 Great George Street, Bristol, BS1 5RH.

Emily Syiver, Assistant Producer, Bristol.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 1)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
24 Thur	02.24	8.1	14.53	8.3
25 Fri	03.26	8.5	15.51	8.6
26 Sat	04.14	8.7	16.36	8.9
27 Sun	04.58	9.0	17.17	9.2
28 Mon	05.35	9.3	17.53	9.6
29 Tues	06.11	9.7	18.24	9.6
30 Wed	06.43	9.6	18.58	9.5
01 Thur	07.17	9.6	19.31	9.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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ROTARY CLUB HOSTS FOUNDATION NIGHT



LEFT: Rotary President Dr Bob Broughton; Rotary International Scholar, Roberta Pellegrino; Rotary assistant governor, Alison Sutherland and Dr William R Williams, Bridgend Foundation Chairman.

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend held its Foundation Dinner Evening on November 7.

The Rotary Foundation is Rotary's own charity and has funded such projects as polio eradication, ambassadorial scholarships, and Rotary peace centres.

President Dr Bob Broughton welcomed the district Rotary scholar Miss Roberta Pellegrino from Italy, assistant governor Alison Sutherland, members of the Rotary Club of Swansea Bay, honorary members and guests.

The foundation chairman, Dr William R Williams, provided a short summary of the work of The Rotary Foundation which is currently in its centenary year, and he issued a reminder that 2017 is also the centenary of Rotary in Wales.

He listed the many significant foundation events over the last 100 years. The foundation chair added that, after a large scale detailed review of global charities, The Rotary Foundation has been voted in 'The Top 10' in the world - something members of Rotary can all be proud of!

Roberta Pellegrino gave an account of her

planned year's study in Wales which will combine geology and biology, with emphasis on the issues of "clean water".

The provision of clean water features prominently in various Rotary projects within the Third World, where clean water is still a major problem.

Rotary assistant governor Alison Sutherland spoke on more locally orientated peace projects.

On the topic of 'Peace' she reflected that the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, now in its 70th year, had recently been awarded the Rotary International Peace Award.

She provided some background to her life as a missionary and her work on the integration of migrants into the Cardiff community.

She spoke of the ongoing projects on our own doorstep and in particular, she gave details of the courses she had put together to deal with conflict and the rehabilitation of prisoners, particularly ex-servicemen offenders, in Parc Prison.

Past president Gerald Bassett JP proposed the vote of thanks to the two speakers.

WRW

'My role is to make people happy!' says care home worker

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kath Beakes, of the care staff at Picton Court, said Rob included colleagues as well as residents in his activities. "Nothing is too much trouble for him," she said. "He is very dedicated and likes to brighten up the day, whether by bursting into song, or telling a joke.

"The most important thing when you work with the elderly is that you care, a very simple word with a big meaning, and I can say that Rob cares.

"He is a lovely, gentle and kind man, who has made a difference to our residents' lives since he has been at Picton Court. He brings a smile to everyone's face."

Volunteer Eileen Torkington said: "There is never a dull moment, he gives the residents something to look forward to every day.

"We are lucky to have such a caring person who does a tremendous job for the residents.

"He also brings in outside entertainment,



such as choirs and musical groups, books meals out and arranges raffle parties so we can have spare cash for more activities. He works hard to ensure that the home is full of fun."

Rob was nominated for the award by Hafod Care home manager, Shajitha Augustine who said: "He provides a wide variety of activities from games and quizzes to old-style cinema afternoons and armchair aerobics. He also brings in regular singers and arranges art classes and music for health."

The MC for the Wales Care Awards was opera singer Wynne Evans, aka Gio Compario from the television adverts for Go Compare.

Mario Kreft, the chairman of Care Forum Wales, said the standard of entries was extremely high.

He added: "There are only winners here tonight so it is only fitting that the finalists will receive a gold, silver or bronze Wales Care Award.

"I trust that they will continue to inspire those around them as role models and encourage others to aspire to even greater heights in the months and years to come.

"This awards ceremony is our opportunity to pay tribute and to celebrate the talent and commitment that is improving the quality of life for thousands and thousands of people throughout Wales.

"We take our hats off to them."

BBC releases nine shorts by local young Spielbergs

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Pencoed-based film making and training company, It's My Shout, launched nine new short films last Friday (November 18) in a ceremony at the Wales Millennium Centre (WMC).

The first of the films, a bright comedy entitled *Tuesday at Jackie's* aired on Monday night (November 21) at 11.10pm on BBC 2 Wales.

A second film, *Tin Dancing Shoes* was shown on Tuesday night on the same channel, also at 11.10pm. Both films should be available on iPlayer.

All of the films are made using young Welsh actors, and the production team is made up of young people gaining experience in the burgeoning Welsh film

production sector.

It's My Shout grew out of the Bridgend Youth Theatre and is now in its 14th year. Roger Burnell has been in overall charge since its inception, and the scheme is now an acknowledged and important part of the BBC's training regime.

The scheme can now point to hundreds of young people who have found employment in the film and TV sector, and the awards ceremony on Friday night at the WMC was designed to highlight this.

Two films made in Welsh will be broadcast this week on S4C (with English subtitles). *Miraim a'r Mor*, a disturbing tale of an autistic girl in a small village was shown on Monday, November 21 at 7.30pm, while a heart-warming

comedy, *Atal* will be shown tomorrow Friday, November 25, also at 7.30pm.

A film shot on location in Porthcawl, a quirky comedy, *Francois*, which stars young local actors including George Neeson, Iwan Bond and Meredith Lewis, will be shown on Tuesday, November 29 at 11.15pm on BBC2 Wales.

On Monday, November 28, a dark comedy caper short entitled *Penelope* will be shown at 11.15pm, again on BBC2 Wales.

Three more short films are scheduled for December. *Ludo* will be on December 5; *The 12 Labours of Gryff* will be aired on December 6 and

Leonard's Neighbours is on December 12 (all 3 films are on BBC2 Wales at 23.10pm).



Members of the Bridgend Youth Theatre juniors at the film premiere.

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A visit to the 'Wild West' for PoW staff and patients

YOUNG patients were transported to the Wild West by children's ward staff to mark this year's 'Play in Hospital Week'.

The annual event celebrates the importance of play during a child's time in hospital and saw ABMU's Play Team come up with an action-packed week of activities at Morriston and the Princess of Wales Hospitals.

The staff on the ward had plenty to smile about too after a colourful display they had created to celebrate the event was judged the winner of a national competition sponsored by Starlight, the charity which supports seriously ill children.

Play co-ordinator Lisa Morgan said: "Our poster set the tone for the week and showed a puppet train travelling through the Wild West, just as we took the children on their journey through Play in Hospital week. I am delighted that it came first."

During the week the children took part in plenty of arts and craft activities, such as making sheriff badges and designing cowboy boots. They particularly enjoyed a visit from Stewart, of the Pod Children's Charity who entertained them with balloon models of favourite characters.

The children, wearing handmade headresses and cowboy hats, also

enjoyed setting up their own camp. They gathered round their replica fire – complete with marshmallows and chocolate – and joined in with songs and storytelling with Michael from charity Readathon.

The week was brought to a close with more craft and Western-themed games like 'Buckaroo' and 'Pin the Sheriff Badge on Woody' and a barbecue meal.

Acting lead nurse Vicki Burridge said: "It was lovely to see all the children and staff enjoy a fun-filled week of activities."

"Play is a fundamental aspect of a child's stay in hospital and this week was an opportunity to share the value of play for all children, young people and their families."

Lisa added: "I am very proud of the play teams at both sites for embracing the theme and for all their hard work. There were lots of smiley faces all week."

"I would like to thank everyone who made it possible and all the staff for joining in too."

She said the team was also very grateful to Nigel Davies, Mardi Gras, Swansea and Paul and Jayne Hughes, of Kind Regards in Kenfig Hill for donating the balloons, Frankie and Benny's, Morfa, Swansea who gave out sweets and Go Outdoors in Llansamlet who loaned a tent for the week.



No long faces as staff get into the spirit of the Old West.



Bryntirion takes Rotary 'Youth Speaks' shield



ABOVE: Caitlyn Jones, Olivia Davies and Mali Conway-Jones of Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

THE Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition in public speaking was held at Brynteg Comprehensive School, on November 16.

Local teams from Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Brynteg Comprehensive School were represented by extremely competent students to battle it out for the Rotary Youth Speaks Shield for 2016.

The speakers chose interesting topics of discussion including 'The arts subjects should have a more prominent place in the school curriculum', 'The Greatest Show on Earth' and 'As a result of media pressure young girls up to the age of 16 are growing up too fast'.

The attention of the audience was held throughout the evening, as the standard of competition was high. The whole evening was enjoyed by parents, pupils, teachers and Rotarians.

The adjudicators were faced with a difficult task of choosing the winning teams.

All competitors were praised for their performances but the winner of the senior competition was Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

The chairperson was Caitlyn Jones, the speaker was Olivia Davies and the vote of thanks was given by Mali Conway-Jones.

The winner of the intermediate competition was Brynteg Comprehensive School.

Their chairperson was Lewis Hall, the speaker was Megan Cawley and the vote of thanks was offered by Archie Faulkner-Leway.

All the competitors were presented with certificates and the shield to the winners by the president of the Rotary Club of Bridgend, Dr Bob Broughton.

The Rotary Club of Bridgend would like to thank Brynteg Comprehensive School for hosting the competition again this year. Thanks also go to all of the pupils that took part, for their efforts in preparing their chosen topics and their skill in delivering them in front of an audience on the evening.

Praise must also be given to the teachers who guided their pupils to reach their potential in public speaking. Thanks also to the parents who were present to support their children on the evening.

It was a delightful event for everyone concerned. The Rotary Club of Bridgend wishes the teams every success in the next phase of the competition, which will be held at Cowbridge Comprehensive School on February 22.

GH

Who wants to build what and where?

Adventure Activities dwelling unit and side porch extension. Mr David Grey – 5 Ltd – The Seaways Hotel, 26-28 Mary Street, Porthcawl – West Road, Bridgend – Conversion of The Seaways Hotel for the provision of nine one-bedroom flats. Mrs Margaret Rees – 8 Hollyhock Drive, Brackla – Cut back overhanging branches to nearest pruning points to leave new growing opportunity for next year. Coastal Housing Group – Former McDonalds, 11 Nolton Street, Bridgend – Prior notification to demolish as the building is in a poor state of repair. HD Ltd – 14 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – Removal of three electrical supplies currently beneath Old Bridge surface, internal lining of external wall (Old Bridge structure) and external works to 14 Dunraven Place. Mr R Elworthy – 1 Brynffrwd Close, Coychurch – Remove conservatory and construct a single storey extension for kitchen and sun room. Mr Tegryn Bevan – 48 Minffrwd Road, Pencoed – Non material amendment to P/16/553/FUL to increase size of the dormer and omit roof balcony with its glass balustrade. Mr Charles Carter – Flat 1, 1-2 Church Street, Maesteg – Retention of raised balcony area to rear of first floor flat. Mr and Mrs Lock – 67 Maes Talcen, Brackla – Wooden fence at rear of house dividing gardens of 67 and 68 Maes Talcen. HD Ltd – 3 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – Internal strip out works. R & L Anthony Ltd – Land to the west of unclassified road, Stormy Down – Prior approval for excavation associated with P/16/523/LAP. Mr Dennis Woodham – 29 Beach Road, Pyle – Non material amendment to P/15/477/FUL. Llanmoor Development Co Ltd – Parcel R26, Parc Derwen, Coity – Non material amendment to P/16/605/RES, revise the position of plot 29 and its parking to comply with condition 2. Pine Rangelife Village Diner – Pottery Hill, Ewenny – Change of use from first floor furniture showroom to first floor

Mr David Grey – 5 Litchard – Demolish existing rear conservatory and rebuild a single storey rear extension. Mr and Mrs Stephen Yorke – 3 Danygraig Avenue, Porthcawl – Proposed ground floor extension and alterations. Mr Anthony Jones – 3 Vale Park, Broadlands – Conversion of garage into living space with window to front and archway through to kitchen via connecting wall. Keith Barnard – St Clares School, Newton, Porthcawl – Works to various trees including removing dead limbs, reducing canopy and removing ivy. Homestyle Care Ltd – The White House, Briary Way, Brackla – Regularisation of side extension ref P/15/183/FUL. Rest Bay Lifeguard Club – Rear of Rest Bay cafe, Rest Bay, Porthcawl – Variation of condition 1 of P/14/792/RLX to extend time period for the siting of a steel storage container. WYG Planning and Environment – Dunelm (Soft Furnishings) Ltd, Parc Plaza, Waterton Road, Bridgend – Insertion of additional mezzanine floorspace and external alteration.

CHRISTMAS 'CALENDARS FOR KIDS' IS LAUNCHED

AN initiative by a local businessman to bring a little joy into the lives of ill, abused or disadvantaged children, launched in Bridgend last week.

Called 'Calendars for Kids', the scheme – brainchild of Steve Davies-Evans – has a target of 500 Advent calendars to be donated before November 27.

As Mr Davies-Evans said: "There are, sadly, hundreds of children that won't experience a 'normal' Christmas."

"A lot of these children are in poor health, victims of domestic violence or are awaiting to be placed with a new foster family so won't get presents or the love and fuss that they deserve."

"I know that an Advent calendar won't change any of that but if it can improve their Christmas by 1 per cent, then it's worth doing."

Mr Davies-Evans added that he is working with Bridgend County Borough Council to co-ordinate a list of organisations and groups that could best benefit from the donations.

Advent calendars can be donated to Sainsbury's at the McArthur Glen outlet village in Bridgend and Brackla Co-Op (Triangle), Porthcawl Co-Op (Lias Road) and also at the front desk at The Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF
SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

I give notice that the following applications have been made. The application documents can be viewed during normal office hours at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB or on the planning page of the Council website. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications on land use planning grounds should write to the Council at the above address by the date specified under each category of application or submit their comments online. Considerations received on applications are not acknowledged. Any representations submitted will be open to public inspection and objections supporters may be identified on the internet. The Development Control Committee operates public speaking arrangements. If you wish to register an intent to speak at Committee (should the application not be processed under delegated powers) please indicate in your response. For more information tel: 01656 643675.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 1999
P/15/683/FUL Demolition of existing buildings and construction of new community facilities with associated access and landscaping works—Land opposite 5-9 Heol Y Goedig Porthcawl by Valleys to Coast
The above proposed development does not accord with the provision of the Development Plan in force in the area in which the land is situated

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
P/15/618/OUT Proposed new dwelling—affording 1/2000 Gyr Valley—Land off Albany Road Porthcawl by Mrs. Sian Lewis
RESPOND BY: 07/12/2016

PLANNING LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS ACT 1969
P/15/684/LIS Removal of 3no. Electrical supplies currently beneath Old Bridge surface, internal lining of external wall (Old Bridge structure) and external works to 14 Dunraven Place—14 Dunraven Place Bridgend by H D Ltd
P/15/684/LIS Internal strip out works—3 Dunraven Place Bridgend by H D Ltd
SECTION 67 DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING
P/15/710/LU Convert vestry and attached hall to 3 flats—The Vestry Meadow Street Porthcawl by Mr Paul Webster
RESPOND BY: 21/12/2016

Mark Shephard Corporate Director Communities / Cyfarwyddwr Cymunedau
Cymunedau 24-11-2016

Body found in River Ogmore

AS THE GEM was going to press, officers searching for missing Neath man, Russell Sherwood, located a body on the morning of Wednesday, November 23.

A South Wales Police spokeswoman said: "Police divers entered the River Ogmore when the search resumed at first light."

"A recovery operation is under way and enquiries to identify the body will follow in due

course. Mr Sherwood's family have been informed of the discovery and are being updated and supported by specially trained officers."

Mr Sherwood left his home in Cliffrw, Neath, early on November 20), and was expected at an address in Ewenny at 7am.

The alarm was raised when he failed to arrive.

PORTHCAWL COMPREHENSIVE PUPILS RAISE CASH FOR LOCAL GOOD CAUSES

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
MALCOLM NUGENT**

FOLLOWING an exhaustive five days of commitment, enthusiasm and energy, Porthcawl Comprehensive School have surpassed themselves during their annual 'Charities' Week, with the 'Head Team' raising almost £4,000.

The fundraising gathered momentum as the week went on with 'I'm a Teacher... Get me out of here!' Strictly Come Dancing, Mr and Mrs and the extraordinary Lip Synch Battle performed to packed-out audiences of delighted pupils!

Students organised slave auctions, cake sales, leg waxing, sponge the teacher and a quiz at the Hi-Tide.

The pinnacle of the week was the fancy dress day for Children in Need on November 18, when sixth formers

and staff dressed up and the rest of the school wore non-uniform with £1,000 raised for the appeal.

As ever outfits were spectacular; the Head Team setting the standard extremely high with their colourful Disney character theme.

Headteacher Andrew Slade said: "This is a terrific amount of money to raise, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils and staff for contributing so wholeheartedly to this campaign and congratulate our extraordinary young people on raising this impressive amount of money for charity."

Local charities that are set to benefit are Ty Hafan, Y Bont, KPC Youth in Pyle and Peter's Progress. Help for Heroes, Guide Dogs, Young Carers and the Alzheimer's Society will also receive donations.

(SEE MORE ON PAGE 37)



ABOVE: Counting the donations...



The teachers entertained, but quite what the panda is doing is beyond us here in The GEM. (Answers on a postcard, please!)



The 'Strictly' judges were not holding back...



The teachers are back on stage.



We're guessing at 'Catch Me If You Can' with this group!

GEM READERS' LETTERS

The life you save might be YOURS

SOME of your readers will know only too well that less than five per cent of people with pancreatic cancer in Wales will live for five years or more after diagnosis.

November 17 was World Pancreatic Cancer Day and across the globe, 985 people will die of the disease on that day – around 24 of them in the United Kingdom.

I would like to invite all your readers to know the symptoms and help us spread the word about the disease, because in Wales, as across the rest of the world, we simply don't know enough about it.

Yet, if more people were aware of the potential symptoms – which

include tummy pain that can spread to the back, significant and unexplained weight loss, yellow skin or eyes or itchy skin, oily floating faeces and indigestion, more people in Wales could be diagnosed earlier.

And we know that the earlier people are diagnosed, the higher their chances of being able to have surgery, which could save their life.

Your readers can find out how to get involved in World Pancreatic Cancer Day at www.worldpancreaticcancerday.org/getinvolved/

Dianne Dobson,
Pancreatic Cancer UK nurse specialist.

Carrying on the work of anti-bullying week

NOVEMBER 14-18 was Anti-Bullying Week, an awareness campaign to raise the profile of the work being done to combat bullying

across the UK and signpost the support services on offer to those being bullied.

While no one likes to think of their children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, pupils or

even friends being bullied, it is sadly a daily occurrence for thousands of children across Wales. It is as much of a concern to children and young people now as it was a generation ago.

Whether you're a parent, carer or professional, or a young person, there is help and support available. Take some time to learn about the tell-tale signs of bullying and the resources available to help those young people affected.

Bullying takes on many forms today and in the case of cyber bullying, is often faceless. This can undoubtedly make recognising the signs and uncovering the problem more difficult. Most common signs include anxiety, irritability and, in some instances, a lack of appetite, although these vary from case to case and some signs are more difficult to spot.

For readers who recognise some of these signs in their children or any young people they know, take the time to speak to them about it and reassure them that help is available.

For more information on the signs to look out for and advice on how to support victims of bullying, visit 'Meic', the information, advice and advocacy helpline for children and young people on 080880 23456 or contact my independent Investigation and Advice Service for free on 0808 801 1000.

Too many children and young people report everyday experiences of bullying. Let's work together to ensure that they learn and live in schools and communities where they feel safe, so that each and every one can reach their full potential.

Sally Holland,
Children's Commissioner for Wales.

Police sergeant intrigues Sker WI with his jingle bells

THE sound of jingle bells came earlier than usual on November 10, when president Nora Williams welcomed 39 members to the meeting.

However, these jingle bells had nothing to do with the imminent arrival of Santa, but could provide some protection from pickpockets!

Our guest speakers for November were Porthcawl community police officers, Sergeant Jason Jenkins and PC Alison Watson. They had come along to give some hints, tips and advice on crime prevention.

While Sgt Jenkins was at great pains to stress that crime figures for our area are low and that Bridgend Borough Council remains one of the safest places to live and work, it is a sad fact that opportunist thieves can strike at any time unless we remain vigilant.

Sgt Jenkins explained that most of the crime that is reported in the area could be described as 'doorstep crime'. These are the bogus callers, rogue traders and distraction burglars who can prey on the unwary and the innocent. The sergeant explained that we can protect ourselves from this type of crime by following some basic guidelines:

Keep doors and windows locked, even when we are at home. Never leave spare keys in flower pots or under the mat as thieves always know all our 'secret' hiding places.

Check the identity of callers at the door and never allow them in unless we are absolutely sure of their identity. This can reduce the risk presented by bogus callers. Nottage is a 'no cold caller' zone and any unwanted callers can be reported by dialling 101.

Make sure that purses and keys are safely kept in closed handbags. If you attach Sgt Jenkins' 'jingle bells' to your purse you can reduce the risk of pickpockets helping themselves to our valuables. It is also vital that you don't leave handbags, phones or other valuables unattended in public

places, as they present temptation for the opportunist thief.

Both officers repeated the reassuring message that crime rates continue to fall in our area and that older people, in particular, are less likely to be attacked or robbed than people in any other age group.

Everyone in Bridgend County can request a free Crime Prevention Survey by contacting Sergeant Jason Jenkins, 07584 004254 or PC Alison Watson, 07584 77094.

As well as our guest speakers, the usual monthly business was discussed.

Plans were finalised for the annual Christmas fair, to be held at Trinity Church, Porthcawl, 10am – 12pm on Friday, November 25. The fair will once again showcase all the things that WI is known for: homemade cakes, handmade craft items, teas and coffee and the chance to win a prize in the raffle or on the tombola.

All the stalls will be manned by Sker WI member s who are always ready for a chat and can answer any questions you may have on what we do and how you could become part of the WI family.

The other big event that Sker WI is looking forward to is displaying our 'golden' Christmas tree in the Porthcawl Christmas tree festival to be held at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl, between November 28 and December 5.

This is always a fantastic spectacle for all the family and will definitely get you in the mood for Christmas. Come along and have a look for our tree; we would love to know what you think!

Some members are looking forward to a Christmas shopping trip to Cheltenham later this month and last, but not least, this month's competition (a quirky item in black) was won by Jenny Stephens with Marian Millis second and Judith Morris third.

Don't forget we meet on the second Thursday of the month at St David's Church Hall, 7pm and visitors are always welcome so please come along and say hello!

Christine Beynon
SKER WI

Sherpa Dawa pays return visit to Bridgend teacher



FOLLOWING a successful trek to Base Camp, Everest two years ago – when Bridgend swimming instructor, Lloyd Thomas was just 19 – he found it was his turn to become the host when one of the Sherpas from the trek came to visit.

Dawa Geljin Sherpa, from Lukla in Nepal, travelled to London to promote the charity 'Classrooms in the Clouds' which is helping to rebuild schools damaged or destroyed during the devastating earthquakes last year.

The charity also aims to build schools in remote areas to provide an education for Nepalese children and sponsor teachers.

Through his contact with Lloyd, Dawa took time out to speak to the children of Brynnau Primary School, informing them of life in Nepal and the culture and tradition of the Sherpa community.

He answered many questions from the enthusiastic pupils and exchanged gifts with the headteacher, Vanessa

McCarthy. His visit has inspired the children and staff of the school to become involved with fundraising for the charity and to find out more about Nepal.

During his time spent with Lloyd and his family in Litchard, Dawa was very impressed with the local area, and enjoyed spending time at Southerndown and Ogmere by Sea. He was also able to catch up with other people living in Wales who have met him through various treks in Nepal.

Dawa is a highly respected Sherpa and is renowned in the climbing world for his work with famous mountaineers, including Scott Fischer and Sir Edmund Hillary.

Lloyd is now planning a further visit to Nepal where he hopes to volunteer and teach in a school, as well as continuing his trekking adventures.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the Dawa Geljin Sherpa's charity, should visit www.classroomintheclouds.org. Links with schools and organisations are always welcome.

Aberkenfig cadets take leading role at Remembrance service



FROM Friday, October 28 the 2318 (Aberkenfig) Squadron spent every parade night up to and including November 11 bag packing and collecting money for the Poppy Appeal at Sainsbury's, Bridgend. The total has yet to be calculated.

Sainsbury's also held an exclusive competition for all Air Cadet units in the Bridgend area. The challenge was set for cadets to draw a picture,

or write a poem, to show what the Poppy Appeal means to them.

The entries were placed in the window at Sainsbury's for customers to see and local members of the Royal British Legion had the difficult decision of judging the competition.

Corporal Huw Llewellyn from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron won first prize, and Cadet Elliemay Hart second and Cadet Erin Morgan third, both from 2318 (Aberkenfig) Sqn.

Finally, on Remembrance Sunday,

cadets and staff from Aberkenfig Squadron attended a service of Remembrance at the war memorial on the square at Aberkenfig. Following this they led the parade from the memorial to continue the service at St John's Church, Aberkenfig.

In the afternoon the cadets and staff marched from Sarn to the Bryncethin Memorial Hall, where the community had a service of Remembrance. The cadets formed a guard of honour for all who attended. **PAT FEARN**

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Supermarket support for domestic abuse charity

AN organisation supporting victims of domestic abuse, has been given a helping hand from two local supermarkets, to continue its work in Bridgend.

Tesco stores on Brewery Lane and Cowbridge Road have donated hampers containing essential food and toiletries to CalanDVS, to enable it to continue offering support to people who attend in an emergency.

PCSO Craig Spanswick, who has helped forge the partnership between the two organisations, said: "The items donated by Tesco will really go a long way towards supporting CalanDVS and those who turn to them for help.

"Often when people access the refuges, both in and out of 'normal working hours', it is an emergency, and therefore they do not have access to finances or basic items such as food, toiletries and clothing.

"These items are not cheap to purchase, so I know CalanDVS are extremely grateful for the generous donations."

June Edbrooke, supporting people housing related



support coordinator, said: "CalanDVS Bridgend would like to thank the two Tesco stores for their donation of a food and toiletry hampers.

"This will benefit the service users we support, including children who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse.

"We appreciate this kind gesture, especially as we approach the forthcoming festive season."

CADET JACK'S AWARD FROM ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE

JACK Rees, a year-11 pupil of Pencoed Comprehensive School, has been awarded Cadet of the Year with St John's Ambulance based in Bridgend.

Jack undertook a training schedule of 18 months and worked hard, to become a fully qualified First Aider.

To obtain the qualification, he had to undertake a day's

training and demonstrate his first aid skills in front of qualified leaders for St John's.

He did so well that he was given Cadet of the Year and will now be put forward for the national awards taking place in Cardiff in February 2017.

His mum said that she is very proud of Jack, and that he is looking forward to being a first aider on the international rugby matches.

A POWIS



News round-up from Coity WI

THE November meeting of Coity WI opened with president Lyn Griffiths welcoming two guests.

The walking group, organised by Heidi, is doing very well, and are planning two further walks, one at Margam and one at Kenfig.

The craft group continues, with meetings held at Gilead and at members' homes. The trip to The Royal Mint was rated excellent, or as some ladies expressed it, 'really, really good'.

Some of our members

attended the Federation dinner at the Hi-Tide. Portcawl, and were impressed with the high standard of food and service they enjoyed, and with the entertainment provided by Mike Doyle.

Our own Mary Poland was delighted to have taken part in the scrabble tournament, and came a very creditable third.

The Christmas season is going to be a busy one. Arrangements are under way for the visit to the Odeon to see the seasonal ballet *The Nutcracker*.

The Christmas lunch will be held at the Great House in Laleston, and a visit to Bath Christmas

market has been arranged. Coity WI Christmas party will be held at Gilead on December 15.

Looking further ahead, Lyn has arranged for a Denman College lecturer to visit, when we will be introduced to the art of silk ribbon embroidery.

This is the course that Lyn and Frankie Evans enjoyed so much when they won the Denman bursary, so this will be an opportunity for members to share their experience.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Steven Jarvis, who brought an illustrated talk on 'Welsh Homes of Distinction.'

From Georgian houses

in Tenby to a traditional Ty Un Nos near Lampeter, from Sarn Bedrig, summer home of the Cadbury family to the Merthyr Tydfil cottage of Joseph Parry, the variety and history of the houses was enthusiastically shared, together with entertaining anecdotes of some of the former inhabitants.

Mr Jarvis was thanked on behalf of the meeting by Lyn Griffiths.

The next meeting will be the last of the year, and will be the Christmas party on December 15. It will be held at Gilead from 7pm.

Rotary Club lights up Christmas in Porthcawl

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl again holds its increasingly popular Christmas tree festival, in conjunction with All Saints Church, from Monday, November 28.

The church will be ablaze with colour from 11am to 5pm each day and there will also be entertainment throughout the festival with Col Canto in concert, 'Lucky Dip Favourites' at 7pm on November 29, local musical talent competing in the Rotary Young

Musician Competition at 7pm, Wednesday 30, and an evening with the mixed choir, Sounds Familiar, choirs and musicians from local schools and Urdd groups on December 1, again at 7pm.

There will be free admittance to all events, a chance to win some fantastic hampers with the raffle and, perhaps, a hot drink and mince pie. After you wander round the church to see the trees decorated by local organisations and societies.

IVOR WILLIAMS

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Brynmenyn pupils visit site of their new school

A GROUP of children from Brynmenyn Primary have visited the site where building work will soon begin on their new school.

It will be relocated less than a mile away from its current site on Bryn Road, to the former site of Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School, next to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen.

Building work is set to start in the next two months, with the new school due to open in January 2018.

Headteacher Clare Dale said: "The children are starting to get excited now, and are particularly thrilled that they will have grass in the new school. As the current school is surrounded by concrete they are really looking forward to that."

Brynmenyn Primary School is being relocated due to the current site being unsuitable for expansion, as a result of its size and the fact it is surrounded by common land.

The new school will be bigger with more modern facilities and will help Bridgend



ABOVE:
Brynmenyn Primary pupils have visited the site where their new school will be built.

RIGHT:
Artist's impression of the new Brynmenyn Primary School.



County Borough Council cope with a rising demand for school places in the 'Valleys gateway' area for years to come.

NANTYFYLLON DAY NURSERY WELCOMED



OGMORE MP Chris Elmore and Assembly member Huw Irranca-Davies toured business award nominee Sadie and Frank's nursery this week.

Launched at the beginning of the year, it was nominated for start-up business of the year at the Bridgend Business Awards 2016 after being opened in Nantfyllon.

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PROTECTING YOUR HOME AGAINST CARE HOME FEES

Devonalds Solicitors are a Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taff based law firm who offer a full range of legal services, and have recently opened a new Bridgend office at the impressive and historic building at 10 Dunraven Place, Bridgend, CF31 1JD. Alex Kilby, Partner at Devonalds and head of Bridgend office explains how you could potentially save on care home fees in the future by making a special type of Will.

Care home fees later in life can be a worry – even though people are living longer, there is a chance that one or even both partners will require long-term residential care at some point. Most people assume that they will pass on their house to their children or other relatives when they die, yet this may not always be the case unless careful arrangements have been made to protect your house from being used to pay care home fees.

Can't I just transfer my Property to my children now?

Unfortunately, this is not usually a good idea as if any of your children became bankrupt, get divorced or die during your lifetime, that share you transferred to them could be at risk. The local authority also have the power to overturn any such transfer if they feel that it has been done solely to avoid care home fees. There is no time limit as to how far back the local authority can go. There are also various (capital gains) tax implications when the Property is sold in the future.

What can I do about it?

Most couples own their home in such a way that when the first of them passes away, the home is then owned wholly by the survivor. If the survivor then goes into care, the whole of the property can be taken into account by the local authority, when assessing if care costs are payable. Do you own your home in this way?

However, you can safeguard 50% of the family home by changing the way you own your home, and by placing your share in what is known as a Property Protection Will Trust. This is a special type of Will which includes a provision that when you die your share of the Property is placed into Trust whilst allowing the survivor to continue living in the Property for the rest of their days.

Let's take an example of Mr and Mrs Jones. They own their home between them as joint owners, but don't have much by way of savings. They want to make sure that the family home is not used to pay for care home fees in the future. If Mr Jones dies first he leaves his half share of the home in a Property Protection Trust, with the remainder of his estate left to his wife. Mrs Jones has a right to live in the home together with the ability to move house. If Mrs Jones then required long term care, the local authority could only take into account the half of the home owned by her. The half left to the children by Mr Jones would be protected from the local authority, and there is nothing they can do to overturn it. Even if Mr and Mrs Jones's children are made bankrupt, become divorced or predecease Mrs Jones, her occupation is secured. On Mrs Jones's death, the Property Protection Trust comes to an end and the half share of the house transferred (or the sale proceeds paid) to the children.

Can I still move?

This is no problem, the survivor can still move house and an alternative property can be purchased.

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Ramblers enjoy two Sunday jaunts

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers enjoyed two walks – to Mynydd Machen and Sirhowy Valley on Sunday – one of 10 miles and one of 7.5 miles.

With walk leaders Gwion and Del. We climbed to the trig point at Mynydd Machen 362m, for coffee break and afterwards walked through some beautiful deciduous and evergreen forest footpaths and finally along the banks of the Rhymney River back to Machen.

Despite the heavy overnight rain, there was a minimum of mud and

underfoot was a carpet of glorious autumn colour. Gwent stiles were in good condition and we only found one where we could try out the latest Pathwatch app.

Get your apps downloaded, we will certainly need them in the Vale! If you would like to get out walking please see our website for contact details: www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk You can also visit and like our Facebook page for notifications.

Next walk, Sunday, November 27, Hidden Valley, meeting point Llantwit Major Railway Station at 9.30am.

JACKIE BRETT

CAVC scoops diversity award



From left: Barnfield College principal Tim Eyton-Jones presenting the award to CAVC principal and chief executive Mike James and learning support co-ordinator James Donaldson.

CARDIFF and Vale College (CAVC) has been named Welsh Further Education (FE) Provider of the Year by the National Centre for Diversity.

The award recognises CAVC as one of the best FE institutions in the UK for encouraging an all-encompassing culture of equality, diversity and inclusion. It was also placed 25th out of the National Centre for Diversity's Top 50 UK colleges.

Judges found that the college has demonstrated a real and tangible commitment to equality and diversity and works for continual improvement.

CAVC principal and chief executive Mike James said: "We are delighted to receive this award as it highlights the excellent work we do across the college to support equality by breaking down barriers to opportunity and

celebrating diversity within our community."

The college also scooped the 'College of the Year' award for the second consecutive year at Wales Insider Business and Education Partnership Awards 2016.

CAVC was up for five awards at the ceremony and proved victorious, in not only in the 'College of the Year' category, but also the 'Economic Impact' award.

Mary Kent, vice principal, said: "To have been shortlisted for awards in such a diverse range of categories, and to have come away with two, demonstrates the scope of work that we're doing with businesses."

"As a college we have developed meaningful partnerships with employers that support their change and growth through the development and upskilling of their workforces."

Marking 'Carers' Rights Day' at Penarth hospice

TO mark Carers' Rights Day, the Carers' Café at the Marie Curie hospice in Penarth, takes as its theme 'Missing out? Know your rights as a carer'.

It decided to adopt the theme on November 29 following Carers' Rights Day, which takes place on November 25.

Susan Court, project manager, said: "Each year, Carers Rights' Day brings organisations across the UK together to help carers in their local community know their rights and find out how to get the help and support they are entitled to."

"At the café, we will joined by a benefits advisor from Tenovus Cancer

Care and carers will be able to have their questions answered in a relaxed environment while enjoying afternoon tea and cakes."

The café was set up as part of the Marie Curie and Big Lottery funded Caring for Carers project and is held on the first and last Tuesdays of each month at the newly-refurbished hospice day unit.

The charity provides expert care and support to those living with terminal illness and their families, and the café offers advice and information, as well as a listening ear to carers.

For more information visit www.mariecurie.org.uk.

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GEM LETTERS TO EDITOR

'JUMP ON THE TRUMP TRAIN'

HAVING watched the American election campaign for the last 15 months and Donald Trump becoming the next President of the United States, I am shocked at the lack of British politicians over there, except for Nigel Farage. He made a speech for Mr Trump and was also seen with him in Trump Tower in New York.

There is a big change about to happen in America and we have got to repair our relationship after Obama.

So a memo to British politicians: get on board the Trump Train, or get out of the way!
Nigel Lloyd, Barry.

Are you a Raleigh bike enthusiast?

AWARD-WINNING documentary company Testimony Films is making a new documentary for BBC4, celebrating the history of the Raleigh Bicycle Company and the bicycles that revolutionised cycling in Britain.

We would love to hear from people born in the 1920s and 1930s who have had, or still own, a Raleigh bike.

If you would like to share your memories, please get in touch on 0117 925 8589; contact emily.sivyer@testimonyfilms.com (or 12 Great George Street, Bristol, BS1 5RH).
Emily Sivyer, Assistant Producer, Bristol.

Can you help us meet a Christmas challenge at the Amelia Trust Farm?

CAN you help ensure that a young, vulnerable person has access to Animal Assisted Therapy – and make their Christmas and New Year a happier one?

This year, Amelia Trust Farm is taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge where we need to raise £7,000 online during a 72-hour window to assist us with our Animals Supporting Vulnerable People Project.

Any donation made between midday on Tuesday, November 29 and midday on Friday, December 2 will be doubled during this time!

"Christmas is a time for giving and thinking of others. If all our supporters gave just £5 we would reach our target which will help to make a real difference to someone's life. We will also be holding a special Interactive Nativity on Wednesday, December 14 at 4.30pm. The

Farm's donkeys, sheep and other animals give a nice touch of reality to the annual event, which is being organised by the farm's Chaplain, Rev Delyth Liddell.

We are also pleased to announce that Father Christmas will be visiting the Farm to meet children on December 3, 10 and 17 between 12pm and 2pm and there will be fun festive trails for everyone to enjoy.

Amelia Trust Farm is a registered charity which supports disadvantaged and vulnerable people through alternative education and community engagement.

There are no restrictions placed on who can benefit from our aims. The young people we support come to us from a variety of backgrounds and often display challenging behaviour. Setting the feet of a young person on the right path is priceless. See www.ameliatrust.org.uk or telephone 01446 782030.

Karen Turnbull,
Amelia Trust Director.

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Exhibition captures experiences of breast cancer

AN exhibition that aims to capture the experiences of breast cancer through art, has opened at the **Heath Gallery, University Hospital Llandough (UHL)**.

'Breast Cancer: a creative intervention' is the work of artist Jac Saorsa as part of the Drawing Women's Cancer project, and was officially opened by Lord Mayor of Cardiff, COUNCILOR Monica Walsh.

It aims to enhance awareness and understanding of breast cancer, and empathy with those who suffer, and with those who care for them. It is hoped that reflecting their experiences will change the way that cancer is 'seen' and understood in general and it will have a positive effect on how

women with cancer come to terms with their situation.

COUNCILOR Walsh said: "The Heath Gallery is a fantastic venue which has recently opened as part of the new Plaza at University Hospital Llandough. It is a centre for art and creative expression, which is unique within the clinical environment of a hospital."

The artist had 'conversations' with patients during their treatment for cancer, alongside health professionals and carers. The transcripts, together with observational drawing sessions in hospital theatres and wards and portrait sessions in her studio, provided the basis for the public exhibition. The exhibition is open daily from 9am-8pm until December 7.

Chefs' Night Out for Ty Hafan

TOP chefs from across the UK are busy cooking up secret menus for an exclusive foodie fundraiser - a Chefs' Night Out at St David's Hotel in Cardiff Bay on February 4, 2017 - in support of children's hospice Ty Hafan at Sully.

For one night only, each table will be treated to a meal cooked by one of the chefs - but the diners won't know who is cooking for them or see their menu until service begins on the night.

Adding a special twist to this exclusive dining experience, chefs will also be offering themselves off-menu in an after-dinner auction. Attendees will bid for a chef - then whisk them away to cater for a dinner party for 10 at their home at a later date.

Hywel Jones - Lucknam Park; Stephen Terry - The Hardwick; Will Holland - Coast Saundersfoot; Mark Jordan - Ocean, Jersey;

Tomos Parry - Kittie Fishers; Alistair Barsby - The Grove, Narberth; Sian Wyn Owen - River Cafe; Phil Carmichael - Berners Tavern; Juan Galvez - Marbella Club; Ludo Dieumegard - The Harbourmaster; David Kelman - Ellenborough Park; Larkin Cen - Cen; Richard Davies - Epicure; Hrishikesh Desai - Gilpin Hotel and Lake House; Andrew Birch - Fishmore Hall and Simon Padilla - Puente Romano.

Organisers David Loosemore and Huw Edwards, who started Chefs' Night Out to raise funds for the children's hospice and the vital support it provides for life-limited children and their families. The event has raised in excess of £450,000 since its inception in 2010. David and Huw are hoping the 2017 gala dinner will see the amount raised smash through the £500,000 barrier.

Attendees will pay £2,500 per table to take part, with all proceeds going to Ty Hafan; email info@chefsnightout.co.uk.

Annette Gee (local businesswoman, runs Task Force Paintball and manages Inspiring the Vale on behalf of the council); Neville Reynr (Chair of Investment in Young People, UK-wide); Alun Cairns MP; Margot James MP (Small Business Minister) and Natasha Davies (Creative Rural Communities).

'INSPIRING the Vale', a bursary scheme supporting young entrepreneurs in the area, has been awarded the 'Highly Commended' citation at the Enterprising Britain awards in the category of 'Promoting Entrepreneurial Spirit'.

The scheme, funded by philanthropist Heather Stephens' Waterloo Foundation and managed by Vale businesswoman Annette Gee on behalf of the Vale Council, was

given the award by Small Business Minister Margot James MP at a ceremony in the Palace of Westminster on Tuesday.

Inspiring the Vale began in August 2014 to help young people to set up businesses by providing a grant of up to £3,000 to help cover start-up costs as well as advice and support from experienced business owners.

The initiative has inspired 157 applicants to date, and 41 have received funding to start their business and are trading successfully. A further eight are in the development stage.

DOGS TRUST FAIR

DOGS Trust Bridgend will hold its Christmas fair at Court Colman Manor Hotel, Bridgend (CF31 4NG) on Sunday, December 11 from 11am - 3pm.

Activities include Santa's grotto, festive games and family photos, a raffle and face painting.

Entry is £2 adults, children and dogs admitted free. For more information, email rhiannon.chamberlain@dogstrust.org.uk or call 01656 728923.

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Dog of the week: meet Elsie!

ELSIE is a gorgeous saluki-staffie-boxer cross - she is only a couple of months old, but is going to be a big girl when she grows up and will need a lot of exercise, to include off-lead, to socialise with other dogs.



We are looking for a forever home where the owner has already successfully owned big dogs before. She can live with children over 14 years and visiting children over 11, as she can be a bit mouthy!

Her forever home will need to be patient with her training needs and be a fan of big dogs. If you can offer a forever home to Elsie, please call Dogs Trust, Bridgend on 01656 728923, or visit the website.

Rhiannon Chamberlain, Dogs Trust Bridgend

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A double decade of dogged duty...

AT Dogs Trust Bridgend rehoming centre, a local canine carer who has helped find homes more than 1,000 animals is celebrating two decades of service.

Julie Ace started as a kennel assistant in 1996 and has spent the majority of her service as a canine carer, walking, socialising, feeding, cleaning and training the dogs.

During that time, she has seen around 10,000 homeless hounds come into the centre, it is estimated to have spent 15,000 hours walking them.

Angela Wetherall, Rehoming Centre Manager at Dogs Trust Bridgend, said:

"Julie is loved by two and four-legged friends alike at the rehoming centre and we want to thank her for her hard work and commitment over the past 20 years.

Julie said: "The last 20 years have flown by, but I have loved every minute! I'm so lucky to work with such a great group of people and, of course, the dogs who make it all worthwhile. I can get quite attached to the dogs at the centre but I am so pleased for them when they finally find their special someone and get the happy ending they deserve."

"It brings me so much joy to spend time with the dogs and see the difference I can make to their lives."

'BE AWARE' WARNS DIABETES CHARITY

WE want all of your GEM readers with diabetes to make sure they are protecting their sight this Diabetes Awareness Month.

Fewer than half of people with diabetes realise that the condition can cause blindness, which is a real worry. This is why we're supporting the Welsh Government's new campaign to make sure that people living with diabetes are going to their regular retinopathy screening appointments.

Diabetic retinopathy is a serious complication that can affect anyone living with the condition. People with diabetes will also be at higher risk of developing other eye conditions like glaucoma and cataracts.

In Wales, there is a dedicated service that identifies and treats these complications called Diabetic Eye Screening Wales (DESW). Everyone with diabetes should

look out for their appointment letter from DESW when it is time for their check-up, where experts will identify any problems and get them treated as soon as possible.

The appointments are quick and painless and could help to save your sight.

See website, www.diabetes.org.uk, for more information.

Dai Williams, Diabetes UK Cymru.

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Bach for good...

Some of the performers.



Florally friendly

FRIENDS and Neighbours' last meeting saw well over 60 people treated to a floral demonstration by Nona Hexter of Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, with volunteer Nannete.

Nona Hexter, Coordinator of the Ageing Well Project in Barry, gave the members insight into the project and social activities it has to offer from Monday to Friday, including Extend, Stitch and Bitch, bingo and free computer class. She also told them about the other services offered.

[There is a busy month ahead, with visit to Barry Memorial Hall to see Superstars in The Making, Christmas lunch and visit to Blooms Garden Centre. They end 2016 with the Christmas party lunch at Brynhill Golf Club and a visit to New Theatre to see.

ON November 15, students at UWC Atlantic College put on a musical performance entitled 'From Bach to Blues', as part of an ongoing series of concerts at St Donats Art Centre.

Local residents were treated to an array of musical talents and styles, from the classical signing of Schubert's *Serenade* to modern guitar solos and violin duets.

Sharon Richards, piano teacher and host of the event, says, "The programme is always varied and it is a wonderful chance for the students at the college to have a performance platform - and for the audience to be entertained by students from all over the world - often playing or singing music from their homeland."

Café Concerts are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at 3pm and last around one hour. The cost is £6.50 per person, including tea, coffee and homemade cake.

**The Welsh Ministers (Crichel Down) Considerations, No's 2, 4 & 6 Bingle Lane, St Athan CF62 4LH
No's 1 & 2 Beggars Pound, St Athan CF62 4LE
The Bungalow, Cowbridge Road, St Athan CF62 4LH**

**The Welsh Ministers ("The Seller")
The following properties in St Athan "the Land"**

**DISPOSAL OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:
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1 Beggars Pound & 2 Beggars Pound.
The Bungalow, Cowbridge Road.**

The property forming part of the Welsh Government Residential portfolio at St Athan.

The properties have been declared surplus to requirements by the Seller and are being put forward for disposal. The Crichel Down Rules require Government Departments under certain circumstances to offer back surplus land to the former owner or successor in title or sitting tenant for sale at market value.

Former owners or their successors in title (or in priority to them, certain eligible residential sitting tenants with long term security of tenure) may be entitled to purchase the land formerly in their ownership (or in the case of sitting tenants, comprising their dwelling) at current market value subject to certain exceptions set out in the Rules which may be of application. If these exceptions were to be applied then there would be no entitlement to purchase any such land.

Assured Shorthold Tenants do not qualify as a sitting tenant for these purposes.

Should you consider that you are so entitled by reason of you being the former owner, their successor in title or a sitting tenant, and wish to purchase at current market value the land formerly in your ownership / the land comprising your dwelling, then please respond to this advertisement in writing within two months of the date of its publication indicating your intention to do so. If no such intentions to purchase which qualify under the Rules in these circumstances are received then it is the Seller's intention to sell the Land at the expiry of the two month period.

Please note that any entitlement of former owners or sitting tenants would be subordinate to and supplanted by the rights of any qualifying tenants under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987.

Former owners or their successors in title or sitting tenants responding to this advertisement should do so in person or through their solicitors or agents by writing to:

**Anne Lawley, Project Support Executive, Welsh Government,
Marketing Suite Building 271a, Aerospace Business Park,
St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 4LZ.
Telephone: (01446) 753030 Email: anne.lawley@wales.gsi.gov.uk**

Former owners, their successors in title or sitting tenants contacting the Seller should set out the basis for their claim that they are a former owner, successor in title or sitting tenant.

**Ystyriaethau Gweinidogion Cymru (Crichel Down), Rhifau 2, 4 a 6 Bingle Lane, Sain Tathan CF62 4LH
Rhifau 1 a 2 Beggars Pound, Sain Tathan CF62 4LE
The Bungalow, Cowbridge Road, Sain Tathan CF62 4LH**

**Gweinidogion Cymru ("Y Gwerthwr")
Yr eiddo canlynol yn Sain Tathan "y Tir"**

**GWAREDU'R EIDDO CANLYNOL:
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The Bungalow, Cowbridge Road.**

Yr eiddo sy'n ffurfio rhan o bortffolio Preswyl Llywodraeth Cymru yn Sain Tathan.

Nid oes angen yr eiddo a enwir uchod bellach ar y Gwerthwr ac mae'r 5 eiddo yn cael eu cyflwyno i'w gwaredu. Mae Rheolau Crichel Down yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i Adranau'r Llywodraeth, o dan amgylchiadau penodol, gynnig tir nad oes ei angen yn ôl i'r cyn-berchenog, yr olynnydd mewn teitl neu'r tenant cyfredol i'w werthu iddynt am werth y farchnad.

Gall cyn-berchenogion neu eu holynwyr mewn teitl (neu mewn blaenoriaeth iddynt, denantiaid cyfredol preswyl cymwys penodol sydd â sicrwydd hirdymor o ddeiliadaeth) fod â hawl i brynu'r tir a fu yn eu meddiant (neu yn achos tenant cyfredol, sy'n cynnwys ei annedd) am ei werth presennol ar y farchnad yn amodol ar eithriadau penodol a nodwyd yn y Rheolau y gall gael eu cymhwyso. Pe byddai'r eithriadau hyn yn cael eu rhoi ar waith, ni fyddai unrhyw hawl i brynu unrhyw dir o'r fath.

Nid yw denantiaid byrddaliol sicr yn gymwys fel tenant cyfredol at y dibenion hyn.

Os ydych yn ystyried bod gennych yr hawl oherwydd mai chi yw'r cyn-berchenog, ei olynnydd mewn teitl neu'r tenant cyfredol, a'ch bod yn dymuno prynu'r tir a fu'n eiddo i chi / y tir sy'n cynnwys eich annedd am ei werth presennol ar y farchnad, ymatebchw yn ysgrifenedig i'r hysbysb hon o fewn deudis o'r dyddiad cyhoeddi yn nodi eich bwriad i wneud hynny. Os na cheir bwriadau o'r fath i brynu sy'n gymwys o dan y Rheolau yn yr amgylchiadau hyn, yna bwriad y Gwerthwr yw gwerthu'r Tir ar ddiwedd y cyfnod hwn.

Noder y byddai unrhyw hawl cyn-berchenogion neu denantiaid cyfredol yn israddol ac yn ddarostyngedig i hawliau unrhyw denantiaid cymwys o dan Ddeddf Landlord a Thenant 1987.

Dylai cyn-berchenogion neu eu holynwyr mewn teitl neu denantiaid cyfredol sy'n ymateb i'r hysbysb hon wneud hynny yn bersonol neu drwy eu cyfreithwyr neu eu hasiantiaid drwy ysgrifennu at:

**Anne Lawley, Swyddog Gweithredol Cymorth Proiectau,
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Ffôn: (01446) 753030 e-bost: anne.jones@cymru.gsi.gov.uk**

Dylai cyn-berchenogion, eu holynwyr mewn teitl neu denantiaid cyfredol sy'n cysylltu â'r Gwerthwr nodi sail eu hawl, sef eu bod yn gyn-berchenog, yn olynnydd mewn teitl neu'n denant cyfredol.

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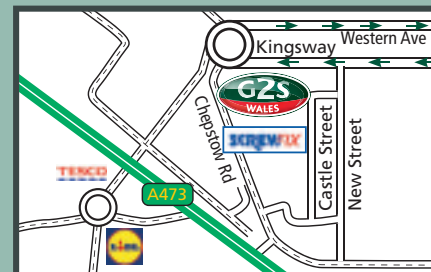
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Llantwit Major **ALIVE WITH LIGHTS** this Christmas

TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT LLANTWIT MAJOR – IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO SEE THE LIGHT!

TAKE a look at the photo of St Illtud's Church in Llantwit Major (far right), because it has a lot in common with the town itself.

Putting it simply, there is a lot more there than at first sight.

St Illtud's has always been a bit of an anomaly. So many towns have built their

main church on high ground within the town, so it is visible from miles around.

In the case of St Illtud's, however, someone in the dim and distant past decided to build it in a hollow, so it is, in the main, hidden from prying eyes.

The result, of course, is that you have to get close before you can fully take in the charms

and points of interest of this remarkable old church.

It is the same with the Lantern Parade takes place through the town.

It's a good place to shop too, as there is plenty of free parking near the main shopping precinct, and it's easy to get to by train, with the Vale of Glamorgan Railway Line making regular journeys between Barry and Bridgend, and stopping at Llantwit.

In the town you will find a variety of independent shops where owner-managers have a real stake in providing good service and interesting stock.

A good place to do business? Well, Tina Morgan at Rio, which offers fashion, accessories and jewellery has been there for 30 years, so she knows the market well.

She said: "I think we are best known for our costume jewellery and scarves, but I am conscious that the market changes constantly.

"We currently stock Joe Brown's – who usually see their clothes online, and Adini is another popular brand.

"I'm also delighted to stock 'A Postcard From Brighton' – a clothing line that is made entirely in the UK, and which is great quality."

Filco stores have a double reason to welcome Christmas – with both the food store and the Plaza Toymaster packed with festive items.

Matthew Hunt of Filco said: "There will be some great Christmas offers – prosciutto lovers should be pleased – and our meat order book is now available, so customers can start planning for the big day.

"At Plaza Toymaster, once again Santa and his real live reindeer will be visiting on Sunday, December 4, and on that day there will be 10 per cent off all items in the toy store."

A typical town trader is Nicky Foster at Health Conscious, who has been in the precinct for more than five years now. She has obviously been well supported by local shoppers and is full of praise for Llantwit people.

She said: "It's a great place to do business and the people here have been very supportive. We're looking forward to Christmas and once again this year we will be putting together Christmas packs, which make ideal gifts."

"We have a new range of candles and oil burners, and we also have a variety of eCoffee cups for the ethical take away coffee drinker. We also have gluten-free cakes and vegan chocolate."

Angela Battrick at Vale Podiatry has been in Llantwit Major for five years, but this is her first Christmas in new premises, which have much better

wheelchair access. Feet being feet, you would not expect the Christmas season to be any different, but that's not the case.

She said: "Our gift vouchers are a popular present. After all, many elderly people are quite difficult to buy for at Christmas, and vouchers mean that their feet will be well looked after all year.

"We also do home visits for anyone who finds it difficult to get to town."

Alys Gwyneth runs 'Stwff', which specialises in gifts and homeware.

She said: "This will be our second Christmas in the town, and we have a really wide range of items that would make great gifts."

Of course, some Christmas gifts and purchases can have the recipients tearing their hair out if it involves modern technology – especially if the recipient is, shall we say, less modern.

That's where PC of Mind can help. Owner Richard Steele said: "We are always



ABOVE: St Illtud's – Llantwit Major's hidden church.

RIGHT: Christmas stock at Sunkissed.



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

available to help with any computer problems, including set up of new equipment, networking and other issues."

At Treasure's Gifts, Claire McCartney offers a great choice of gifts and one, in particular, is in demand already.

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LIT UP LLANTWIT MAJOR OFFERS A GREAT CHRISTMAS DEAL TO ALL ITS CUSTOMERS



LEFT:
Nicky Foster at Health Conscious.
BELOW LEFT:
Angela Battrick at Vale Podiatry.



RIGHT:
The Christmas display at New Hope charity shop.

She said: "We have already sold a number of 'Make your own Teddy Bear' kits. You can make the bear from scratch, including stuffing it!"

"Another popular Christmas item is our range of Yankee Candles, and this year we have a new range - Wood Wick candles - which crackle like a real fire."

Something else to bear in mind when taking a shopping trip to Llantwit Major is that when it comes to taking a break, there are plenty of options - cafes, pubs and restaurants where you can relax and return to the streets, newly invigorated.

At first glance you might imagine that a fish and chip shop such as Simon's Plaice would not be too affected by

Christmas, but the shop's delivery service has changed this.

Gaynor Jones of Simon's Plaice said: "Fish and chips is a great treat at a children's party, and with people so busy preparing for Christmas, it is becoming more and more popular with groups of adults too."

At The Old White Hart on the town square, George and Elenid Carling are looking forward to a real family Christmas - and they feel that the pub has become much more 'family friendly' in their time there.

At The Old White Hart, they look forward to the town's special days and do their bit. George said: "When the town switches on the Christmas lights, we will



be having an outdoor hog roast and mulled wine.

Just outside the town, the St Donat's Arts Centre adds to the charms of Llantwit with an imaginative choice of performers in the Tythe Barn. With Christmas in mind, they are looking forward to a visit from the Sherman Theatre, which is bringing a Christmas show, *The Emperor's New Clothes* to St Donat's next Monday (November 28)

at 10.30am.

Another big Christmas event at the Arts Centre is on Sunday, December 4 (10.30am to 4pm) when it hosts a 'Crafts for Christmas' fayre, with indoor and outdoor food stalls, live music, a children's workshop, and a wide variety of craft stalls.

At the Victoria Inn in Siginstone, Beryl and Michael O'Leary have always celebrated the Christmas season, and Michael is proud to say that it takes almost a full day to put up the Christmas decorations, so the pub really looks special inside.

Good food and drink has been the hall mark of the Victoria Inn, and the fact that their Christmas Day dinner sold out months ago tells its own story.

The Christmas menu will be available from December and they are expecting a busy festive season. Food is served seven days a week, but on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, they serve meals all day long.

PHILIP IRWIN



ABOVE: Christmas stock at Treasures.

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WELCOME TO LLANTWIT MAJOR

BY THE TOWN MAYOR, COUN SALLY HANKS

THE end of November and December are going to be very busy months for the town of Llantwit Major.

On the 25th and 26th of November, we will be starting the Christmas celebrations.

The Events Group are working hard on lots of exciting Christmas ideas, starting with market stalls on The Precinct on Friday, and the lights being switched on Saturday, with late night shopping and music for all.

There is also a Santa's Grotto and a lantern parade through the town.

The exciting and newly-formed Chamber of Trade, led by Mrs Clare Ingram as chair, Jackie Jenkins as secretary and Nicky Foster as treasurer are asking all local shops to dress their windows for Christmas, and I have the challenging job - along with fellow councillor Mick Mason - of judging them.

Also look out for lots of Elves in many of the shop windows, which will be incorporated as a children's competition.

The town council, for the first time, is organising a pantomime, *Cinderella*, over two days on December 14 and 15 in Llantonian



Hall. Tickets are just £5 each and available from the town hall. Places are limited so buy early.

The town hall will also be open on Saturday, November 26, from 2pm to 4pm for anyone wishing to buy tickets.

Llantwit Major Church is holding an ecumenical carol service on Christmas Eve at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

I would like to wish all the schools in Llantwit Major a Happy Christmas and I hope they enjoy all their concerts and parties, especially the children and staff of Ysgol-y-Ddraig who will be having their very first Christmas in their wonderful new school.



RIGHT:
Just some of the varied Christmas stock that you will find at 'Stwff-Stuff'.



ABOVE: The café at St Donats Arts Centre, which is open for special events.

BELOW: Decorations everywhere at the Victoria Inn.



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TV star launches book at Noah's Ark

TV PRESENTER Lucy Owen launched her first book for children – *Boo-a-bog in the Park* at Noah's Ark children's hospital, Cardiff, on Friday.

A familiar face on BBC Wales, Lucy is also an ambassador for the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity and all royalties from the sale of the book will be donated to the charity.

Children from the hospital will be invited to celebrate the launch of the new book and enjoy a storytelling session with Lucy and husband Rhodri Owen, whose Welsh adaptation of the book, *Bw-a-bog yn y Parc*, will also be launched on the same day.

Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity Director Suzanne Mainwaring, said: "Lucy is such an incredible advocate of the Noah's Ark Charity and we're hugely thankful to her for choosing us as the beneficiary of her first book. Reading and telling stories is a central part of every childhood and as a charity that has children at the heart of everything it does, this seems like the perfect fit."

"We hope that families for generations to come will enjoy hearing the story of Tom and his monster, just as many will benefit from the proceeds it helps to raise."

Boo-a-bog in the Park is a wonderful, reassuring, rhyming story about a little boy called Tom who finds it difficult to make new friends.

Asked what inspired her to write the book, Lucy said: "This story is about a little boy getting through a difficult time. But with the help of his imaginary monster friend Boo-a-bog, Tom finds his strength. For me, the theme of the story felt like a lovely fit with the Noah's Ark Charity. It would be wonderful if the book helps raise money for this very special facility we have for children in Wales."

The heart-warming story is beautifully complemented by Andy Catling's illustrations and has already gained praise from some well-known personalities including Wales' football team manager Chris Coleman, who said: "A delightful, rhyming story with excellent imagery which I'm really looking forward to reading with my children."



ABOVE:
At the book launch in the Children's Hospital, Lucy and Rhodri were joined by the book's illustrator, Andy Catling (centre).

Children's TV presenters spread love of reading

CHILDREN at Llandough Primary School were treated to an afternoon of fun and excitement on Wednesday when TV presenters Sam and Mark popped in to share their love of reading and writing.

The event was a prize awarded to Sam Sugarman, who having read Sam and Mark's first novel *The Adventures of Long Arm*, entered a competition by Scholastic to find the UK's funniest friends. Sam entered himself and best friend Oliver into the competition and was shocked to find out in July that they had won.

Sam earned himself and Oliver a mention in Sam and Mark's sequel book *Long Arm Vs the Evil Supply Teacher*, and also a visit from Sam and Mark to his primary school.

Sam and Mark entertained a packed hall with extracts from their first novel, a brief history of how they became famous and ended up writing books and also found time for some fun games; including finding best friends in the school hall.

After the assembly, Sam and Mark took time to sign books and autographs with children and staff. Mark Ellis, headteacher at Llandough Primary said: "It was a privilege to have Sam and Mark visit us today. They are popular TV presenters and for them to take time out of their busy schedule to visit us and inspire our children to read and write books is fantastic."

"I would also like to thank Sam Sugarman for entering the competition and gaining such a fantastic prize and to Scholastic for organising the event."

Farmers' market at Reindeer Parade

THE Vale of Glamorgan Farmers' Market will again holding a farmers' market at the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade on Sunday, November 27.

There will be 20 stalls selling locally-produced food, to take home and cook or to eat on the day.

This will be beef, lamb and duck burgers, home-made soup, bacon rolls, and pies and pasties. Add to that beer, cider, seaweed

gin, chocolates, cakes, chutneys, eggs, and cordials.

There will definitely be some unique Christmas hamper ideas to help with your Christmas shopping!

The market will be open from 10am until 2pm and to keep the children entertained while they wait for Santa to arrive, there will be a reindeer hunt around the stalls. Coming for the annual outing are Romeo and his friend Seren, the miniature ponies.

Barry toy and train sale

BARRY Toy and Train Sale takes place on Sunday, November 27 from 10.30am to 3pm at Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street (CF63 4RU).

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Our Barry event is proving ever more popular and it offers a wonderful range of stallholders, trading in the large and well-lit venue which offers vast amounts of space for everyone. Stallholders will be keen to buy and to exchange as well."

Call 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

Tulip charity raffle

TULIP Bridal Boutique, established in Barry since 2014, is hosting a winter fair and raffle on December 10 at 4pm, to auction a Christmas tree dress hand-made by staff members Jemma and Kim, among other prizes.

A special surprise guest will be making an appearance during the evening. All proceeds from the raffle will be donated to Ty Hafan. Raffle tickets are £2 each and available to purchase in the boutique. "We're really excited to offer such a unique and special gift for a wonderful charity," said Kim.

An evening of pampering for the NFU ladies!

A BIG 'thank you' to John Lewis in Cardiff, where we held our November meeting, for a wonderful evening of perfumes, make up, Buck's Fizz, fashion show, mince pies and coffee.

Everyone enjoyed their hospitality. We meet next on Wednesday, December 14 at 7.30pm in Penllyn Church for our carol service before adjourning to the village hall to enjoy our annual Christmas party.

As usual, can members please bring a plate of food.

RJE

Castle carols for Ty Hafan

THE public is invited to a festive sing-along under the stars to raise funds for life-limited children at this year's 'Carols at the Castle' in aid of Ty Hafan hospice at Sully.

After last year's sell-out event, which ended with a spectacular fireworks display, the charity is bringing Christmas spirit back to Cardiff Castle on Thursday, December 1 and it will be a concert with a difference from

6pm to 8.30pm.

Sponsored by One Stop and supported by Heart, there will also be an opportunity to feast on festive treats in the Dickensian Christmas market, with stalls selling a range of unique, hand-crafted Christmas gifts and cards and enjoy a fireworks display.

Tickets cost £5 for children, £10 for adults, with proceeds going to Ty Hafan children and their families.

Contact Ty Hafan at events@tyhafan.org.uk on 029 2053 2283 or visit <http://www.tyhafan.org/carols-at-the-castle/>.

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The First Step to a Better Smile

Pontyclun pub becomes an all-day venue – with great food included

AS you approach the Bute Cafe Bar in Pontyclun it seems a pretty traditional pub, but as you peer through the window, you soon realise that is not.

When Mr Jamal Asfi took over, he wanted to make it an 'all day' venue, so the interior was redesigned to make it much more the type of place that would attract people for morning coffee, lunch and evening meals – but all done without alienating the traditional pub customers.

As it goes about attracting an all day clientele, a total of 14 staff are needed at various times, as the venue aims to have good quality food available all day, but still has space to show live football and rugby, and even has live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

It was a Thursday evening when my guest and I visited to try the evening menu, which offers a wide choice, and a selection of specials on the pub blackboard.

My guest went to the main menu for her starter, a smoked salmon platter with lemon and mixed leaves.

I try not to be awkward when eating out, but a main course on the specials board, spicy seafood linguine, had caught my eye.

However, I really fancied a small portion as a starter, and I was very pleased that my request was granted without a moment's hesitation.

The first thing that impressed us was the portion sizes. In many restaurants, a £3.95 starter comes served on a plate the size of a saucer, but here we were served a full plate of food – and you start wondering how you are going to manage three courses.

My guest's platter was excellent, with plenty of salmon and salad as



The Bute Cafe bar in Pontyclun.

well, but we were both impressed with the spicy seafood linguine, which served up plenty of seafood in a sauce that was not too hot, but which came with a real kick.

I had been awkward about asking for a half portion of linguine as a starter, because I really fancied as a main course the rack of lamb served with red wine jus, buttered mash and seasonal green vegetables (£12.95).

Now, it's fair to say that a Masterchef reviewer might quibble here. It wasn't so much a rack of lamb as four separate lamb chops, but they were tender and well cooked, and everything on the plate delivered

plenty of flavour, and it was a great plateful of food.

My guest was hungry and took a fancy to the lasagne, garlic bread, and chunky chips (served with a salad at £6.95) and it was again, a full plate of food. More importantly, she said that the lasagne was as good as she had tasted, so it proved to be a great choice.

When it came to dessert, the portion sizes caught up with us, so we decided to share a chocolate fudge cake, with ice cream and chocolate sauce and, once again, we had a large plateful; that proved plenty for the two of us.

So, the Bute cafe bar serves up excellent, tasty food – and plenty of it – so it has made a great start under its new management.

There is a wide choice of wines to accompany your meal, all reasonably priced, and as a good pub should, there are plenty of beers, lagers and ciders as well.

As we were finishing our meal, the live entertainment (a guitarist/singer) was just starting his set, so it seems to me that the Bute Cafe Bar is adding something distinctive to the scene in Pontyclun. It's well worth checking out and I wish it well.

Philip Irwin

£6 million for hub at hospital

HEALTH Secretary Vaughan Gething AM on Tuesday announced nearly £6 million (£5.969m) of capital funding for a new diagnostic hub at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital in Llantrisant.

The funding announced covers the building costs for the installation of a replacement CT scanner, as well as the equipment and building costs to install a second CT and MRI scanners at the hospital.

The new hub will help ensure that diagnostic waiting time targets can be achieved within Cwm Taf and improved across south Wales.

It will also improve resilience in relation to the availability of scanners across the region.

Mr Vaughan Gething said: "In having these new scanners in place, we expect the hub to deliver on average, an additional 7,232 MRI scans and 6,599 CT scans per year. This will help reduce diagnostic waiting times while

providing high quality imaging capacity in south Wales."

Ruth Treharne, director of planning and performance at Cwm Taf University Health Board said: "I am absolutely delighted that the Welsh Government has approved our bid to enable us to take forward this vital project in Cwm Taf.

"One of the outcomes of the south Wales programme was a commitment to the Royal Glamorgan Hospital developing a significant role in diagnostics and ambulatory care, supporting the wider network of hospitals in the region.

As well as providing improved diagnostic facilities and scanning for our own patients in Cwm Taf, the Hub will become the centre of excellence for south Wales.

"As well as more MRI and CT scanners our clinicians are keen to take advantage of technological advances in diagnostics and this is a really exciting development for Cwm Taf University Health Board, as well as our local communities.

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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

HOLTON ROAD TRADERS ARE MAKING SHOPPING A WHOLE LOTTA FUN..!

THERE are just 31 days to go until Christmas! But fret not, help is at hand on Holton Road.

For over one hundred years Barry's main thoroughfare has provided all the help the

demanding Christmas shopper requires and this year is no different.

New shops with enthusiastic owners are the lifeblood of local shopping areas.

An exciting new entry at 294 Holton Road is 'Little People Party Supplies' run by Dawn

and Mike Hampshire.

Dawn and Mike are importing American party ware that brightens up a celebration for youngsters or the young at heart.

Lunch plates, cake plates, party bags, table cloths, napkins, balloons, banners, decorations, straws, stickers, tattoos, they've got it all – and with top brands like Pokemon, Star Wars, Batman, Avengers, Minecraft, Peppa Pig, Tinker Bell and more.

Dawn explained: "We opened on September 24 and it has been great. Whenever people have been in they've said: 'I'll be telling my friends about you'."

Mike said: "It started off as a hobby, first online, and now we've

got the shop."

The showroom is light and bright with everything neatly displayed and conveniently to hand, a little like Mike and Dawn's website

www.littlepeoplepartysupplies.co.uk where you can browse what's on offer in the comfort of your home.

The council is carrying out a facelift to the Upper Holton Road area with smart new shop fronts and sleek new pavements. It is that sort of commitment from the Vale Council that encouraged the couple to open their shop.

Mike added: "A lot of our products can be good stocking fillers at Christmas – things like pencils, stickers, temporary tattoos and pez sweet dispensers."

Just off the other end of Holton Road in Thompson Street Joseph Turner has opened Joseph Barber Shop for gents, women and children.

Joseph said: "It's going really well, we've had lots of positive responses that people can see on our Facebook page."

But there are a number of features that set the shop apart from a normal barber's.

It can host parties, with boys having their hair cut and getting the chance to play games like Xbox and table football in a games room. Pizzas are delivered by Rocket Joe's. The first party was held on November 17 for Evan who was celebrating his 11th birthday; he had five friends with him.

There are complimentary drinks for youngsters and adults, and each youngster who goes to Joseph Barber Shop gets a toy to go away with.

The idea is to make going to the barber's fun for youngsters who might find it unpleasant or boring.

What else makes it stand out?

Joseph said: "We are really a male grooming studio. We also do Swedish massage and male body waxing."

Joseph also operates a loyalty scheme with every sixth haircut free!

Joseph and Ben make it a real fun atmosphere. Their youngest client so far, who came in with dad, was just 14 months old!

A new entry at 29 Holton Road is Robert D Johnson Independent Funeral Directors a father and daughter-run business.

Daughter Lisa explained: "My father Robert has worked for other funeral directors for over 20 years and has now opened his own."

"We operate through the Vale and Cardiff and have a 24-hour line. People can call 01446 733844."

"We can either discuss things with people at our premises or at their home if they would prefer."

"We have a number of different packages starting from £2,450 and can do bespoke funerals that are tailored to a person's hobbies or wishes."

"As a family business, we are independent and pride ourselves on a personal service."

'All About You'
is all about making you look GREAT!



ABOVE:
The 'All About You' family team (from left to right) Gemma, Carla, Amy and Jermaine.

ALL ABOUT YOU beauty and hair salon is a real family affair for Carla, Jermaine, Amy and Gemma.

It's been open for three and a half years and occupies the same premises – 230 Holton Road – that were once occupied by Dr Williams' surgery.

The ladies create a really fun, friendly atmosphere.

The salon welcomes women, men and children, and provides a full range of hair and beauty treatments.

Hairdressing cuts, colouring, permanent waving and special deals for senior clients are all available.

The ladies host children's parties for a minimum of 10 youngsters with hair styling, nails painted, glitter tattoos, food, karaoke, wii and a disco.

There's a nail salon, waxing, massages, facials and reflexology too.

All About You aims to pamper you, relax you and make you feel great. The ladies plan to remain open until 2pm on Christmas Eve and will reopen on Thursday, December 29, from 9am until 8pm.

Follow the salon on Facebook and don't forget to book that special appointment on tel: 01446 734159.

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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

The backbone of Barry business – companies that stand test of time

LONGEVITY is the ultimate success for a business and Holton Road can boast a number of family concerns that fill the bill.

Marshall's Family Butchers were established in 1889 and became a limited company in 1911 – a rare thing in those days.

The business is based at 76 Holton Road and the owner Ceri Williams has a great rapport with his customers – Ceri's father Morgan took the business over from John Marshall.

Morgan once had the honour of supplying the royal yacht Britannia when the Queen sailed in to Cardiff in 1958.

Ceri has all the choice cuts you could possibly want this festive period with some tempting extras like game and venison. There are special Christmas offers on too.

You can pick up your Christmas order form from

Ceri now at Marshall's (£10 deposit) and pick-ups start from Wednesday, December 21 and run until Christmas Eve.

JPL Sound – The Barry Music Shop, located at 267 Holton Road, is a local institution in the town. For over 40 years, John and his staff have provided top quality advice and products to musical beginners, enthusiasts and professionals.

That's no surprise because the staff are musicians themselves!

At this time of year, it is particularly advisable to go to JPL Sound to buy a musical instrument if it is an important Christmas present.

People who purchase on the internet can find an instrument incorrectly set up and that can mean Christmas Day disappointment for someone.

John and the team will find something within your budget and ensure the instrument is properly set up.

If you are purchasing a number of items you can even compile a 'wish list' and the staff will work out a special price.

The shop provides a guitar repair service and quality instruments are 'bought and sold'.

JPL Sound – The Barry Music Shop is well known not just in Barry, but throughout south Wales, for the numerous events it helps with its sound systems, including the Barry Island's Fireworks Fiesta.

This week it will be at the High Street Christmas lights on Friday night, and the Cowbridge Reindeer parade on Sunday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

RIGHT:

JPL Sound has a fantastic range of musical instruments such as these guitars which would make an extra special Christmas gift.



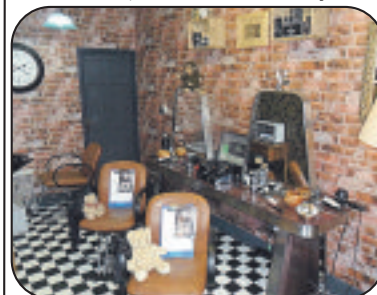
Time to pick up your Christmas order form from Ceri at Marshall's Family Butcher in Holton Road. The deposit with orders is £10 and pick ups from December 21 until Christmas Eve.



And new start-ups!



'Little People Party Supplies' is run by Dawn and Mike Hampshire and supplies American party ware with lots of top names like Pokemon, Star Wars and Minecraft.



Joseph Barber Shop on Thompson Street makes a visit to the barber's a fun experience for youngsters.

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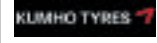
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STANDING THE TEST OF TIME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

Ruckleys is the ever-popular, must visit store for mums and dads and stocks everything from 'early days' through to school days.

The staff are friendly, knowledgeable and ready to help with the best advice – whether it's on baby items, prams and pushchairs, children's clothes and shoes, or school uniforms.

The owner Faye explained: "There are many prams and pushchairs all on display

for people to try.

"We have children's clothing from babies to six years old, all at good old fashioned, value for money prices.

"We are trained Startrite fitters and have a wide selection of first shoes and school shoes.

"This combined with our christening, bridesmaid, pageboy, special occasion wear and school uniforms and toys, ensures that we have something for everyone.

"For expectant mums, our wealth of knowledge of the nursery industry is

second to none. We offer expert help and advice in a friendly and relaxing environment.

"Why not take advantage of our nursery savings club?

"We will order and store all your products until you need them. You simply pay a small deposit which means you can shop now for all your baby items without having to pay straight away. Avoid shopping when you're heavily pregnant and call in now!

"The more you buy, the more you will save as Ruckleys offer incentives for you to buy everything under one roof. We are also open seven days a week!"

N & M Frangoulis on Thompson Street is the oldest family-owned shoe repair business in Barry.

It was opened in 1950 by George Frangoulis. He developed a reputation for taking on the most challenging shoe repairs, and making the very best 'made-to-measure' hand-made shoes.

His son Nick now runs the business. Key cutting was introduced in the early 70s, and the service has developed and grown over the years. N & M Frangoulis also stocks the very best in British-made quality shoes; there's a variety of high quality leather goods – including wallets, purses, passport and travel card holders.

Computerised engraving has been introduced to personalise gifts as well as stocking a range of trophies and Cups – together with a large range of genuine Zippo lighters which can be engraved.

Other products include watch batteries and watch straps.



N & M Frangoulis on Thompson Street is the oldest family-owned shoe repair business in Barry.



Robert D Johnson Independent Funeral Directors has a light, bright reception for consultations with families.

Pamper yourself at Tan y Hyde!



Tan y Hyde staff have welcomed two new members, Ri and Chloe. Pictured from left to right, Ri, Shannon and Chloe.

TAN Y HYDE is Holton Road's one stop shop for all your hair and beauty needs.

The salon has a friendly buzz and dozens of treatments and services delivered by trained professionals.

The business caters for women, men and children, opens at 10am Tuesday to Friday until 5.30pm – and has two late nights until 7pm on Thursday and Friday. On Saturday it closes at 5pm.

Tracy, the owner, is delighted to have welcomed two new members of staff.

She said: "Our new hair stylist is Ri who has been with us a couple of months, and our new beauty therapist is Chloe."

Chloe does a lot of the massages and in January there will be 10 per cent off all massages with her.

The salon offers treatments in waxing (female and male); nails; lashes and brows; facials; hair cuts and styling for women, men and children; and there are special OAP rates.

Tan y Hyde is located at 43 Holton Road, Barry.

To book an appointment, call 01446 745483; for more information, go to: www.tanyhyde.co.uk.

RIGHT: Ruckleys is the must visit store for mums and dads and stocks everything from 'early days' through to schools days.

Barry and Boverton Vets 'treat your pets as if they were our own!'

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JH



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Shaving for Singleton

MY mother is shaving her head to fundraise for Golau Cancer Charity (based out of Swansea Singleton Hospital) in thanks for the help they gave me when I was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia last year.

My mother is a technician demonstrator for Swansea's Alexandra Road campus foundation art and design course, and will be shaving her head on campus on December 5.

The students are intending to hold a fundraising day.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ShaveforSingleton.
Lauren Saunders.

J.K. ROWLING'S FANTASTIC BEASTS MAKE FOR A TRULY MAGICAL EXPERIENCE!

IN Hollywood, maybe more than anywhere else, money talks. So when the Harry Potter franchise finished in 2011 with the second

part of *The Deathly Hallows*, having trousered \$10 billion in global box office, the chances of seeing something Potter-related on the big screen were as likely as Tuesday following Monday.

So arrives *Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them*, based on JK Rowling's 2001 book, which is set in the same universe as the Harry Potter stories and tells the tale of Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), who arrives in New York with a suitcase full of – you guessed it – fantastic beasts.

But when said beasts get loose after a mix-up with Joseph Kowalski (Dan Fogler), Newt comes under the suspicion of Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston), and must track them down, all the while a dark magic is brewing in the city, pursued by Graves (Colin Farrell)...

Given that the original *Fantastic Beasts*... book that this first instalment (of a proposed five) is based on runs to 128 pages,

and is of itself a guide to magical creatures rather than a cohesive narrative of its own accord, the slate for the filmmakers to develop the world of this Potter-related universe was pretty clean.

With JK Rowling giving the film her seal of approval by writing the script for it, what you end up with is a ridiculously enjoyable and satisfying film, a magical expansion of the Potter-verse but one that resolutely stands on its own two feet to enthrall a new audience of fans as well as those existing ones.

Many of the tenets of Potter have remained here; the film is still at the home of Warner Bros; it is produced by the same team that oversaw the eight films, and is directed by David Yates, who helmed the final four films of the series.

Yet this familiarity is comforting rather than overbearing, and with Rowling taking charge of the screenplay, it feels like a real attempt to capture the magic rather than just shamelessly cash in on the association.

Yates has immense



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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fun conjuring inventive set-piece after inventive set-piece, the scale and scope hugely impressive, dripping with jaw-dropping moments but fused to a sense of humour and wonderment that works incredibly well, which the cast also helps with.

While Eddie Redmayne's most notable work has seen him push himself in more artistic directions, he has a great time here as Newt, bringing a quintessentially English character and giving him warmth, wit and strength in equal measure.

It's worth noting

Yates was, at one point, in talks to make a Doctor Who film and you can't help but feel some of this has infused the character of Newt, in his manner and mentality he is reminiscent of the Doctor, and Redmayne's wide-eyed wonder is a perfect way in to this world.

He is ably supported by Dan Fogler, who, as the muggle of the bunch (or No-Maj for our American cousins) makes for an excellent foil, acting as the audience's eyes and ears, while the always-watchable Katherine Waterston as Tina, and Alison Sudol as her sister, complete a pretty likeable bunch.

While Ezra Miller brings a darkness to his character of Credence, a character whose membership of an anti-magic sect belies a secret, Colin Farrell is underdone by his character of Graves, a figure poorly written and who has 'not-to-be-trusted' written all over him.

In fact, that is the film's main weakness – while the plot of Newt tracking down his beasts is fun and well-executed,

the subplots (involving the rise of a senator, the previously mentioned anti-magic sect and the big dark secret at the core of the story) smack of predictability and familiarity.

It could be argued this is a flaw in Rowling's writing that has been brought to the big screen; her inability to keep the reader or viewer guessing – however, when the main thrust of the film is so much, it can be forgiven as these *Fantastic Beasts*... more than live up to their title!

VERDICT: A captivating beginning to a new franchise (and something that will satisfy the hardest of Harry Potter fans), *Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them* is a massively entertaining and magical affair. The film looks great, with action aplenty, and the cast, in the main, impress – part two has a lot to live up to! *Highly recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows Part 2* (2011), *Men In Black* (1997).



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The annual St Andrew's Fayre is organised for Saturday, November 26, in the Parish and Lee Halls, Dinas Powys.

Doors open at 2 pm. There will be a huge number of stalls and a guest appearance by Father Christmas.

The annual Dickensian Evening will be held on Friday, December 2 from 5.30 pm. Located in the heart of the old village of Dinas Powys this popular event is organised by the Rotary Club.

Dinas Powys Community Library & Activity Centre invites you to 'Carols in the Library' with Dinas Powys Primary School Choir on Monday, December 5 at 2.30pm. This is the first social event organised on behalf of the Community Library which started life this month. The library is located next to the primary school.

Bethesda Community Choir Christmas Concerts run from December 7 to December 10. The venue is the Parish Hall, Britway Road Dinas Powys. The title

of the concerts this year is 'Let's Make a Memory'.

Celebrating its 20th year, the choir will be singing a number of favourites from over the years! Tickets are £5; call Sharon Wilson on 02920 513401. Proceeds are in aid of 'Believe ODS' a local charity supporting organ donation.

A Christmas coffee morning is planned for Wednesday, December 14, 10.30 to noon. Go along and enjoy sing-along carols with St Peters Community choir.

There will be stalls, cakes, and a raffle at the Murchfield Hall Sunnycroft Lane Dinas Powys. Contact Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern for more details - 02920 513700 or info@dpvc.org.uk.

There's to be a table top sale on December 17 at the Murchfield Hall, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys, 10am to 2pm. This is in aid of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern. Admission is free and crafts, gifts, books and more will be available.

If you want to hire a table contact 02920 513700 or email info@dpvc.org.uk.

Make a date for great late night shopping in Penarth town centre

THE Christmas spirit is already apparent in Penarth following Sunday's festive light switch-on with Father Christmas.

Next up is the chance for people to sample the very best of what local businesses have to offer with a relaxing late night shopping event.

On Thursday, December 1, there will special offers, mince pies, carols and live music while customers shop.

Mel Griffin of Griffin Books on Windsor Road told The GEM: "Most of the traders will be open until 8pm that evening, and there will be entertainment out on the streets."

"It is an opportunity for people who work full time to

find out the gems that Penarth has to offer, and products and a service that you won't see elsewhere."

There's also an Advent trail for shoppers on the night – a card with 12 spaces for independent shops to stamp.

The completed card will go into a draw for a Christmas hamper. It's a fun way for people to find out about what's on offer and see some special offers on the night.

Mel added that traders would be creating a real festive fun evening.

"We'll have some mulled wine and mince pies and there will be a great atmosphere."

The idea for events such as Christmas late night shopping on December 1 was inspired by Penarth's Retailers' Forum.

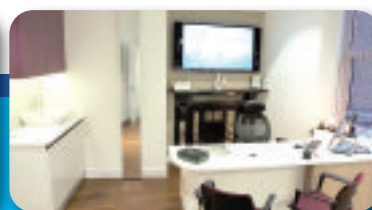


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Lights on in Penarth!



IMAGES by JON TURTLE



CHRISTMAS AT PENARTH HOSPICE

AN evening to help people remember someone special will be held at Penarth in the run up to Christmas.

The Marie Curie Lights to Remember event will take place at the charity's Cardiff and Vale Hospice on Thursday, December 1, from 6pm.

Marie Curie provides expert care, guidance and support to people living with terminal illness and their families. The evening will be held in the hospice garden, weather permitting, and will include carol singing around the Christmas tree, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Sara Bass, fundraising manager for Wales, urged the public to "join us with friends and family for a gathering of remembrance and festivities."

The fundraising team is calling for donations of bottles of wine for the event from individuals or businesses. If you can help, please donate a bottle to the hospice on Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

Any donations or requests to dedicate a light to remember can also be sent to the Marie Curie fundraising office.

PENARTH'S annual Christmas Lights Switch-On event helped to light up the town last Sunday with Santa and Mrs Claus in attendance.

There were rides and stalls in the town centre from 2pm, and children were encouraged to decorate lanterns and take part in the annual parade from West House later that afternoon.

The big countdown happened on-stage just after 5pm, and Penarth's Christmas Lights were illuminated.



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Penarth railway path clean-up day a success

ON November 19, despite poor weather, 30 volunteers gave up a few hours of their time to clear green waste and household waste from the banks of the old railway path in Penarth.

A surprising array of objects was found – including parts of a bathroom suite, a swimming pool, aluminium steps, a fluorescent strip, fibreglass steps, mountains of green waste and rubble – five trucks full in fact.

The same morning, volunteers scarified areas of Sully Terrace green and sowed wildflower seeds donated by Sustrans, the varieties of which had been especially chosen to be representative of the varieties that would be most likely to be found along railway lines.

This will improve biodiversity along this valuable wildlife corridor while also providing a pleasant environment for residents and path users alike.

The event was sociable and fun, giving residents and path users a chance to get to know one another. We hope to have a future event in the spring.

The newly-created Railway Path Project Penarth, assisted by Penarth Tourism & Visitor



Some of the objects found.

Association, aims to remove waste and improve the area for residents, tourists and wildlife with the support of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

This project will be ongoing and the group welcomes everyone who would like to join in. Information can be found on Facebook – Railway Path Project Penarth. Residents can also support the project by disposing of waste responsibly. SS

Heartbreak for local victims of flooding

IN MY VIEW by CHRIS ELMORE, MP FOR OGMORE

I'LL be honest, I've had to change what I was going to write about, following the floods on the weekend.

The weather has caused huge problems across the constituency and I spent most of Sunday knocking doors, chatting with residents and offering help to those families and businesses affected in Maesteg.

Many families devastated by the flash flooding have been left with thousands of pounds worth of damage to their homes and lost possessions, including many irreplaceable items.

It was heart-breaking listening to people talk about the impact of what has happened.

Over the coming days I'll be working with Bridgend Council and Valleys to Coast Housing to offer as much help as I possibly can to residents.

Thankfully, the flood warnings for the Llynfi have been lifted, but others have not. Of course, families in Pencoed, Ogmore Vale and Pontycymmer have been affected too and I will do all I can to help anyone affected.

If you need help or support please call my office on 01656 860034 or email

chris.elmore.mp@parliament.uk.

I also want to make people aware of the 'go fund me' website for those affected. With Christmas just around the corner, these floods are made even more difficult.

Many of the people I've spoken to have children and they're left with the awful choice of replacing furniture or making sure their children have a good Christmas. This page is designed to help ease that decision. Even if it's just a couple of pounds, anything would help:

www.gofundme.com/garth-flood

Thrills amid the chills!

IT'S much colder now but there are plenty of Porthcawl

Townswomen's Guild activities to enjoy and warm our hearts!

Cardiff Federation decided to hold their annual luncheon in Porthcawl this year and very good it was too, at the Atlantic Hotel.

A lovely day so members from Cardiff were able to enjoy a walk on the front afterwards.

We always like to show off our town at its best, don't we? Our own monthly lunch was at Beales – always popular.

Our autumn fair in aid of Ty Hafan was a success and enjoyed by all including the ambassador for Ty Hafan, Lynda Francis, and the Mayor and Mayoress.

This month's meeting was a demonstration of 'Ideas for Christmas' given by Judy Harvey assisted by Jean Schofield. Judy had a wealth of stories of her life in floristry which kept us in fits of laughter; not to mention the lovely Christmas floral arrangements that Judy and Jean showed us. These were raffled off afterwards – another bonus.

Our meeting next month is on December 14 (2pm at All Saints' church hall) when we will hold our Christmas party with entertainment from Mike Boyle. **DT**

Red Cross were there to help during the Storm Angus floods

A TEAM of Red Cross emergency response volunteers have had a busy few days supporting local communities as Storm Angus swept across south Wales.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service requested the support of the emergency response team in the early hours of Sunday morning when rising flood waters threatened homes in Pencoed.

The volunteers used a Land Rover Defender to reach the town. After pulling on their wellington boots they knocked on residents' doors to inform them of the potential risk caused by the heavy rainfall.

The crew – Karl Marsh, Rhys Taylor and Jonny Walsh – were then directed on to Maesteg, where flood water had rushed through streets and houses affecting approximately 100 homes.

Karl Marsh, lead volunteer, said: "The water was flowing down the roads like a river. I've never seen anything like it. We were speaking to people through their top floor windows to check that they were ok and, where possible, helped arrange alternative accommodation. We also helped the firefighters to set up barriers to try to divert the water away from threatened properties."

The volunteers remained at the scene until mid-morning, carrying out welfare checks and offering practical advice such as providing

information about accessing insurance. On Friday, a house in Llandow caught fire after it was struck by lightning. Red Cross volunteers provided emotional support to the resident and helped to arrange accommodation and replacement medication.

Rob Donovan, emergency response operations manager at the Red Cross, said: "Our volunteers have provided an exceptional service over the last few days. The people they have helped have been incredibly grateful for the support and advice they've received."

"The Red Cross is an emergency response organisation and we are fully prepared to provide humanitarian assistance as long as we are needed. I'd like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers, our partners and local communities."

Advice on dealing with flooding is available on the Red Cross website at: www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Preparing-for-disasters/How-to-prepare-for-emergencies

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club (November 21) were as follows:

First, Phil Felman and Tony Disley, 69.35 per cent; second, Debbie and Dave Lea, 65.18 per cent; third, Mike Best and Kevin Maddox 59.52 per cent. **LE**

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Park Funerals has a professional team, headed by Senior Funeral Director, Rebecca Adams. Rebecca is awaiting the award of her Certificate in Funeral Practice which is due to be presented this month. Rebecca also has a qualification in Child Bereavement.

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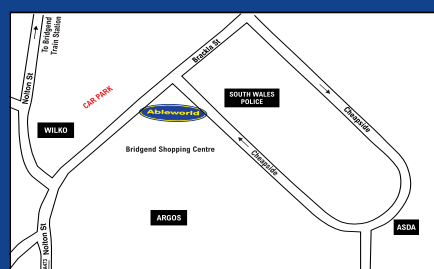
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Gavin and Stacey pushing the boat out for Porthcawl RNLI



LEFT : Celebrities such as Ruth Jones, Rob Brydon and Bonnie Tyler, and TV host James Corden, lent their support to the RNLI. (James Corden did so via a video link).

RUTH JONES aka 'Nessa' of *Gavin and Stacey* fame, entertained a packed Porthcawl Grand Pavilion theatre last Friday (November 18) to raise money for Porthcawl RNLI.

The evening is thought to have raised in the region of £18,000 for the charity.

James Corden opened the evening with a video message from 'Smithy' which was filmed on the set of his American chat show.

He went on to introduce the star of the evening, 'Nessa' better known locally as Ruth

Jones, who grew up in Porthcawl.

She took on the role of comper for the evening in the style of her highly successful *Gavin and Stacey* character.

She was supported by her friends Bonnie Tyler, Only Men Aloud singer/actor Craig Gallivan and during the meal, singer Russell Jones Jrn.

But to the surprise of the audience one more guest appeared just in time to join Nessa on stage to sing their number one Comic Relief hit 'Islands in the Stream'; yes, none other than 'Uncle Bryn', Rob Brydon.

Their duet was a huge success and received a standing

ovation from the audience.

Following on for the rest of the evening The Dave Barry Big Band kept everyone entertained with many of the audience enjoying a dance to a wide variety of tunes.

The evening was initiated by Ruth earlier in the year in support of the Porthcawl RNLI volunteers, one of whom is her brother-in-law, crewman Etienne Cronje.

Once a date had been set she then made all the arrangements for the evening which included a three-course meal and no entertainment.

To help raise funds on the night, Ruth went around the tables having 'selfies' taken

with members of the audience. Raffle tickets were also sold and a raffle drawn.

That was followed by an auction which included a wide variety of items professionally sold by auctioneer Andrew Thomas, from HRT estate agents in Cowbridge.

Porthcawl Lifeboat chairman, John Abraham said: "The whole evening was a true success for Ruth and her friends, the audience and of course Porthcawl lifeboat station."

"We are grateful for all the effort that she put into making her evening so special for us, she definitely pushed the boat out for Porthcawl RNLI."

Boys and Girls Clubs attend special Remembrance event at Boys Village

A REMEMBRANCE event was held at the old Boys' Village, St Athan, by the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales (BGCWales) on Saturday, November 12 to mark Remembrance weekend.

It was also a part of a BGCWales Heritage Lottery project which focuses on founders Lord David Davies, Llandinam, and Captain John Glynn Jones, and their connection to the First World War.

A grandson of Captain John Glynn Jones, Chris Glynn, said: "I think that going through something like war is what possibly drove my grandfather to help improve the lives of the next generation – not only through creating clubs, sporting activities and building holiday camps, but also changing attitudes and their way of thinking about the world."

The memorial was built in 1930 and it's quite different to others seen in many villages across the UK. It doesn't have the names of individuals, but states that it is a memorial dedicated to the memory of the youth of all nations who fell.



At the end of each camp week since 1930, they would hold a memorial service there to remind the young people of their sacrifice and how international relations, not war, should be the way to find peace.

Also in attendance at the event were:

1st Penmark with Porthkerry Scout group, Wyndham BGC, St Athan Air Cadet representative Mr David Allen Oliver, former chief executive of BGCWales; Mr Jack Hardman from Friends of St Athan Boys' Village and BGCWales national development officer Grant Poiner.

Cathryn Evans, BGCWales project coordinator, started the proceedings with a brief history of the Boys' Village and the memorial.

Martin Evans, one of the Scout leaders, led off the traditional Remembrance service and two young lads, Jake and Ciaran from Wyndham BGC, had said they wanted to do a reading.

Ciaran wrote a speech thanking everyone for attending and Jake had written a poem about the poppy. Both spoke so well, and with such feeling.

Poppy wreaths were placed at the foot of the memorial to end the service.

We'd like to thank all who attended, and for all your kind comments.

CE

Who will give a home to these two abandoned bonfire pups?

DOGS Trust Bridgend is looking for homes for two puppies abandoned in a park on bonfire night.

The nine-week-old puppies,

lurcher-cross Sparkle and collie-cross Boom, were left in the cold in a park in Mountain Ash and are now being cared for by the rehoming centre staff after being picked up by the RSPCA.

The charity suspects they may have been bred to be sold as Christmas presents, only to be given up when no buyers could be found; or they may have been bought as pets, but abandoned when their owners had second thoughts.

Angela Wetherall, rehoming centre manager, said: "It's shocking that

someone could abandon two young and helpless dogs. They are adorable and they have already melted a few hearts here at the centre.

"It is worrying that so many people still buy puppies on a whim and don't understand the lifelong commitment involved. Dogs Trust recommends that owners get their dogs neutered to avoid the likelihood of unwanted litters, which all too frequently end up at rescue charities to be rehomed. In the lead up to Christmas, we would like to remind everyone that 'A



Dog is For Life'." Interested? Contact Dogs Trust Bridgend, call the rehoming centre directly on 0300 303 0292.

Novel ideas for Children In Need

Pudsey visits reception children.



AT High Street Primary in Barry – a small school of just over 200 pupils – the school council has always had the tricky job of how to raise money for Children in Need.

As always, we supported the cause by dressing up and donating money. This year, however, the council challenged pupils to a class competition – each class had to raise money in a different way to see which could raise the most.

Years 1 and 2 raised money by completing a 'Pudsey coin fill'. They had Pudsey templates that had to be filled with coins and raised £228.

Years 3 and 4 held a 'scrumptious spotty cake sale' which raised £77.

Years 5 and 6 and class 8 held sponsored sports events which raised more than £218.

Even the staff held a staffroom coffee and cake sale, raising £25.

It was our youngest pupils that won the class competition. Nursery and reception children took part in a

'sponsored bounce' which raised a massive £549. They were so happy to win and each child received a Pudsey wrist band for their efforts.

For such a small school we are very proud to have beaten all our previous years of fundraising with a huge total of £1,136.31 and still counting.

For the first time, High Street Primary was visited by 'Pudsey the Bear', thanks to Barry's Round Table. The pupils could not wait to tell him how much we had raised!

All the children worked so hard to raise money for such a fantastic cause and had lots of fun doing it. The council has certainly set itself a hard total to beat next year.

HD

HELPING TO GET GIFT BOXES AWAY FOR THE NEEDY

ANDREW R T DAVIES AM is pictured, right, giving local farmers Rhydian Evans and Jeff Thomas a helping hand to unload shoeboxes at the Llantrisant warehouse collected for Operation Christmas Child.

Volunteers are checking gift boxes on a daily basis, in readiness for a consignment set to leave shortly for Zambia and also Albania. Last year, over 27,000 shoeboxes were donated to what is regarded as the world's largest children's Christmas project and with just days left of this year's campaign, this figure could well be exceeded.



Go to **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgangem.co.uk



High fashion at the Hi Tide!



Report and pictures by Keith E Morgan.

A FASHION show recently took place at the Hi Tide to raise funds for the Sandville Self Help Centre at Tŏn Kenfig.

Thanks to Fran and Jeff Dower, the Hi Tide was beautifully decorated for the occasion, complete with a professional style catwalk along which the models could strut and 'do their bit'. And 'do their bit' they did, with a splendid display of fashion clothes which all came from the Sandville Bouquet (or for those not 'so posh', the Sandville charity shop!).

All the models were patients or volunteers from Sandville and what a professional lot they turned out to be, showing off all the fashions with great style.

The fashion show itself was set up by

Gwyneth and Mike Howells, and ably assisted by a team of seven girls in the back room (Alyson, Jennifer, Kit, Ann, Jan, Carol and Jean).

Their job was to ensure that all the clothes were sorted, and ready to wear and be paraded by the models on the catwalk (Jan, Caroline, Diana, Jill, Jenny, Meryl, Jackie, Katherine, Nesta, Derie, Brenda, Becky, Megan, Machala, Cathy, Becky and Ann). Not content with having the best dressed girls in Porthcawl on show Gwyneth had, on hand to see to the models' every need, five of the best dressed men in Porthcawl as well.

The 'men in black' were David Michael Howells, David Lawrence, Robert Ralph, Robert Adams and Robert Stines.

Under the watchful

eye of compere Pam Davies, the show went like clockwork with a break halfway through the proceedings to hold the raffle.

There was a superb raffle with six special baskets full of goodies donated by the Bridgend MG Club and decorated beautifully by Sandville's raffle queen Heather.

The deputy mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Lorrie Desmond-Williams was on hand to draw and present the raffle prizes to the lucky winners.

All the clothes paraded by the models during the show were for sale after the show as well as those additional clothes from the Sandville Bouquet displayed on racks at the Hi Tide.

Altogether, the fashion show raised £1,700 for the Sandville Self Help Centre for



which Sister Gwyneth Michael Howells for Poacher wishes to express her grateful thanks to Fran and Jeff Dower; and the management of the Hi Tide, Gwyneth and the fashion show.



DofE remembrance walk to Beacons Wellington bomber



LEFT: Some of the DofE candidates exploring the geodesic design of the Vickers Wellington LT-Y.

BELOW: Barry Comprehensive pupils paying their respects at the cairn.

On November 13 – Remembrance Sunday – a number of this year's Duke of Edinburgh cohort took part in a memorial walk in the Brecon Beacons along with Mr Gamble, Mr Hutton, Miss Rowe, Mr Williams and Mrs Davies.

The walk took the boys across challenging terrain but they persevered, showing great determination to reach the Wellington bomber R1465 crash site and memorial cairn. The group had the opportunity to explore the site before hearing a brief history of the events of July 6, 1942.

They learned that the Wellington bomber crashed while on a cross-country training exercise, due to heavy cloud. The pilot had descended in order to pinpoint their position but hit the top of the mountain. The crew of five Canadians was killed in the crash. The memorial cairn was constructed in 1980 and is a recognised Canadian War Memorial.

All of the boys were excellent representatives of Barry Comprehensive School. The group listened intently to the Remembrance service at the memorial cairn, and further showed their respect by observing the Silence.

There are more than 40 aircraft crash sites in the Brecon Beacons.



Your chance to share the news with the local community...

Aberkenfig WI

Aberkenfig and District WI president Eunice Williams opened the meeting on November 9 by welcoming two visitors, Jean Hopkins and her daughter, Tracey Harding and Happy Birthday was sung to Dorothy Thomas.

Entertainment was provided by Tondy Primary School choir. The children soon had the ladies enjoying renditions of Christmas songs old and new. The children sang like angels and were very well behaved, though that didn't stop them tucking into the biscuits and squash! The vote of thanks was given by Eunice Williams.

The competition for a postcard was won by Gillian Williams and the raffle by Dee Melton and Eunice Williams.

The institute will be decorating a tree for the Christmas tree festival in Wesley Centre, which opens to the public on December 3. There will be a dummy run on November 29 in the Len Evans Centre, after which the tree will be taken to the venue where the bazaar will also be open. A visit to the Royal Mint in January or February was also discussed.

The next meeting is the Christmas party in the Len Evans Centre on December 14 at 2pm.

The Institute meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig. Visitors and new members are very welcome.

For further information, call Dilys on 01656 725399 or visit www.cobwebs.co.uk or www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomensinstitute.

Singer contest

APPLICATION forms for the Dunraven Welsh young singer competition, organised by the Maesteg Gleemen male choir, can be obtained from the secretary, John Wines on 01656 739365, or from secondary schools in the area.

Forms must be submitted by the middle of December and it is open to youngsters aged 11 upwards. Heats are being held in Maesteg town hall on Saturday, January 28, with the finals in the town hall on Saturday, March 25.

The winner of each category will receive the Bryan Davies trophy and a prize to the value of £400; including a £100 personal cheque and a voucher for £400 to further music education in his/her school, along with a personal trophy. The runners-up in each category will receive £50, a voucher for £50 to further music education within his/her school and a personal trophy.

The Gleemen rehearse on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Royal British Legion club, Commercial Street. Visitors and new members welcome.

Charity dinner

MAYOR of Bridgend Coun Reg Jenkins invites the public on December 2 to the Best Western Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend at 7pm to a dinner with guest speaker Frank Hennessy. Tickets £25 per person from Mrs Mari Major on 01656 664105, or Coun Marlene

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
Tel: 01656 725399 • E-Mail: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Thomas on 01656 871439.

The dinner will support Kidney Wales Foundation for the renal department, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend; Crossroads Care, Bridgend, and Summer School at Heronsbridge Special School, Bridgend.

Step by Step

A NUMBER of pupils at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, Sarn, part of a dance crew called 'Step by Step', entered the Welsh Factor earlier this year and advanced all the way to the semi finals, after competing in Llanelli.

If they win the final, they scoop £20,000 prize money. The pupils are: Meghan Parker, Gracie Sebburn, Tayah Owen, Charlie Duckworth, Libby Lloyd, Louise Osborne, Rachael Quigley, Cobi Kendall, Molly Blake, Leiana Darks, Ellie Mayjor, Mya Jones, Amy Haxton, and Amy Jenkins.

Stroke concert

OGMORE Valley male voice choir regularly supports local charities and next Thursday, December 1 will be staging a concert to support people recovering from a stroke at the Stroke Association in Bridgend at 10.15am.

On December 2 it is staging a Christmas concert at Llansantffraid church, Sarn at 7pm.

The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings and welcomes new members and guests. For more information, telephone the secretary John Jones, on 01656 841429.

Prostate concert

BOIS Goetre-Hen Male Choir is performing in a charity concert to help raise funds for Prostate Cancer UK at St John the Divine parish church, Aberkenfig tomorrow (Friday, November 25) at 7pm. There is also a guest choir, Meibion Goronwy, from Benllech on the Isle of Anglesey.

Tickets £5 from secretary Richard Howells - email boisgoetrehen@gmail.com or telephone 01656 737923.

The choir invites visitors and new members to its rehearsals at Tondy Cricket Club on Sundays from 7pm to 9pm and Tuesday from 6pm to 8pm.

FUTURE EVENTS

AT Wesley Methodist Church, Tondy, on Saturday, December 3 there is a Christmas tree festival and bazaar from 10am to 3pm; and on Sunday, December 4 there will be an all age Nativity and Parade service at 10.30am.

On Wednesday, December 7 there will be a carol service with the choir from Tondy Primary School leading the singing, the service is at 6pm.

Y Bont, a disabled children's charity, will hold a Christmas festival at Bryngarw Country Park from 4pm to 8pm on December 2 - 3 from 10am to 4pm; everyone will be treated to a festive atmosphere with stalls and music provided by choirs.

Cor Merched Cwm Llynfi, (Llynfi Valley Ladies' Choir) is performing in the Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Patrick, Monica Street, Maesteg, this Friday (November 25) at 7pm. Tickets priced £6 are available from church or choir members, or telephone 01656 742703.

It will be a ladies' night as the guest soloist will

be Sally-Anne Kingsbury and all proceeds will go to the church restoration fund.

If you are interested in joining the choir, this concert would be the perfect opportunity to hear the ladies sing. It rehearses in the Catholic church every Wednesday, 7pm - 9pm.

Garw Valley Railway Society will be holding an open day at the train shed, Pontycymmer on Saturday, December 17 from 10.30am until 2pm.

This will enable fathers to return to their childhood days by taking their young children to clamber over the engines, while their mothers can sort out items for Christmas! There will be light refreshments available, and the opportunity of winning the raffle.

Age Connects Morgannwg will host a fundraising evening of musical entertainment by Maesteg male choir Cór Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch on November 25 from 6.30pm to 10pm at Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall, CF35 5PE

Tickets for the event, £5, can be purchased from Age Connects Morgannwg via information@acmorgannwg.org.uk or call 01443 490650. Admission is by ticket only.

Communities First

postcode areas

ALL residents from these areas are cordially invited to an accredited Level 2 food safety course at Betws Life Centre on Wednesday, December 7 from 9.15am to 3pm, with lunch provided.

This is an opportunity to gain a qualification and learn how to prepare, store and reheat food safely while avoiding common hazards. Advance booking required by calling Jenny, on 01656 643693 or 07815 525017.

Also: preparing healthy Christmas cooking on a budget at Central Ecumenical Church, Maesteg on Tuesday, December 13 from 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Advance booking required, contact Jeremy on 01656 643518 or 07815 527124.

The Welsh Wildlife Trust based at Parc Slip nature reserve, Fountain Road, Tondy, CF32 0EH is organising several events at its visitor centre.

Next Saturday, November 27 there will be a Christmas craft fair at the centre from 12pm to 4pm, at which there will be a large festive range of handmade items for sale.

On November 26 the conservation team would appreciate the assistance of volunteers to improve the habitat for lapwings, a wading bird which is in decline. Helpers should wear Wellington boots and clothing suitable for helping in a dirty environment.

Festive fair

TONDU Primary School's Parent Teacher Association is holding a Christmas fair on Friday, December 2 at 2pm in the school hall on the Meadow Street site.

The school choir will entertain parents and carers with Christmas carols, while Father Christmas will be there to greet the youngsters and there will be plenty of stalls for both children and parents.

Year-6 will run a toy stall and would like all the children to clear out their toys ready for Christmas. Please note - we cannot accept books this year.

Special award for local environment campaigner



ABOVE: Businesswoman Margaret Minhinick receives her award.

AT the Cynnal Cymru annual awards ceremony in Cardiff on November 17, Margaret Minhinick of Porthcawl became the second recipient of the Special Recognition Award, recognising her 30-plus years' work in environmentalism and sustainability.

It included her work as joint creator of Friends of the Earth Cymru in 1984 and also as joint creator in 1997 of the charity Sustainable Wales, based in the seaside town.

She is director of Sustainable Wales, which incorporates the ethical/fair trade shop, SUSSED on James Street in Porthcawl.

She commented: "This award is important to me because it is recognition by my peers. The world was a far different place in 1980, when I helped begin Porthcawl Friends of the Earth. Somehow we coped without internet, smart phones and satnav. "Sustainable Wales today remains dedicated to helping young people who take those things for granted. We are proud of our young workers who have gone on to other careers in the green movement. "Sustainable Wales and SUSSED will remain dedicated to providing an ethical choice on the high street and sustainable choices in difficult times," she added.

PUDSEY POWER AT NOTTAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL!

PHOTOGRAPHS by SCENIC GALLERY.



PUDSEY BEAR paid a visit to Nottage Primary School, Porthcawl on Friday, November 18 to celebrate The Big Spotacular, Lloyds Bank's and BBC Children in Need's exciting new school fundraising campaign.

The Big Spotacular, is encouraging children and teachers to dress up in spots, sell spotty cakes and goods, and take part in spotty themed challenges, to raise more money than ever before for disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.

As part of the campaign, and organised by staff at Cardiff Head Office, Pudsey was invited to surprise pupils at Nottage Primary where he met hundreds of pupils and teachers to thank them for their hard work raising funds for BBC Children in Need.

Ahead of this year's BBC Children in Need appeal night, Nottage Primary had been busy setting up bring and buy stalls, baking biscuits and dressing up all of which the children organised themselves.

Mrs Adele Thomas, headteacher, said: "We've really got behind BBC Children in Need this year, with our pupils developing some fantastic spotty fundraising ideas for The Big Spotacular. We have wonderful children and staff here and they have made me so proud with their generosity and commitment when helping others.

"We were very excited to receive a visit from Pudsey and the team at Lloyds Bank. The pupils loved it and it was great to have all their hard work acknowledged."



CHILDREN TURN OUT IN FORCE FOR KENFIG HILL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Report and pictures by KEITH E MORGAN



AT Kenfig Hill, the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day service and parade was co-ordinated by Harold Phillips, Clerk to Pyle Community Council.

A reading from the prophet Micah was read by Coun Kay John, chair of Pyle Community Council, and a reading from the Gospel of St Matthew, The Beatitudes, was given by the Rev Grabham.

The sermon was given by the Rev Jonathan Durley, with the emphasis on 'Peace' followed by prayers of thanksgiving by Rev Deacon Claire Stowell. The poem 'Two Fusiliers' by Robert Graves, was read by David Williams.

A collection was taken on behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and the parade assembled outside St Theodore's Church under the command of Flight Sergeant Richard Peckham of the Kenfig Hill ATC, and marched down the High Street to the Cenotaph on the Top Cross at Kenfig Hill.

A large crowd had assembled at the Cenotaph for the service and the Act of Remembrance, which was again conducted by Rev Durley, CA and Rev Grabham, with support from Rev Deacon Stowell and Grace Wyld.

Flags were lowered for the Last Post and following the two-minute silence, they were raised to Reveille and the hymn 'The Lord's My Shepherd' was sung.

The programme for the service and parade was produced by the Royal British Legion's Kenfig Hill & District branch and Pyle Community Council.

It commenced at St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill, and was conducted by the Rev Jonathan Durley, CA and Rev Len Grabham, Pysgah Chapel, Kenfig Hill, with support from Rev Deacon Claire Stowell and parish reader Grace Wyld.

There was a full choir led by parish warden and organist David-Lloyd Jones and the altar was decorated for the occasion with an embroidery of poppies beautifully worked by church member Enid Rymer.

The congregation filled St Theodore's church and porch with many having to stand throughout the service. Again, this year there was a record turn-out of youngsters from the local schools, Scouting associations and Air Cadets with representatives from each group forming part of the flag bearing guard of honour.

'Foodbank volunteers are brilliant', says MP



AFTER visiting Maesteg foodbank this week, Ogmere MP Chris Elmore (above, second left), who had also opened Pencoed foodbank earlier in the month, said: "The foodbanks are a lifeline for some of the most deprived people in our society. "These volunteers who give up their free time are absolutely brilliant and deserve a lot of credit."

• The Maesteg foodbank is open every Friday from 11am to 2pm.

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Figures correct as at April 2016

THE 1990 YSTRAD HUNT POINT-TO-POINT SEASON

GEM columnist Brian Lee takes another look at his press cuttings books.

This time we read his report on the Ystrad Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases, which were held at Llantwit Major.

Under the heading 'Gavin's Prayer Is First Winner' I wrote: 'Gavin Hughes, an 18-year-old trainee electrical engineer from Porth, notched his first winner when making all the running on problem horse *Answer To Prayer* at the Ystrad Hunt point-to-point on Saturday. He won by a distance from *Team*, partnered by Tim Jones.

Answer To Prayer, who usually refuses to start and who has been known to pull himself up, is owned by Pontypridd bookmaker Tony Jeffries.

Tim Rooney's bid to win the National Rider's Championship came to an end when he broke two bones in his right foot after falling from *Gun Metal Boy* at the penultimate fence in the Adjacent Hunts race, won by *Miss Daffodil* ridden by Cowbridge's John Llewellyn.

Sarah Evans, aged 22, made every post a winning one in the Ladies' Open on her father's 12-year-old *Lady Laverna*.

Paul Hamer of Bridgend chalked-up his 97th winner when Len Harkins' *West Palm Beach* beat sole rival *Little Herbert* in the Restricted Open and Phillip Mathias from Tenby rode a good finish on George Wagstaffe's *Rostuile* to take the Men's Open.

Another rider who was injured in the same race that day as well as Rooney, was Pontypridd's Robert Rowsell, whose collar bone was fractured when *Girngoe* fell at the third last fence.

On seeing these falls from afar, Tim Jones, who had pulled up his mount *Quick Fling*, urged his mount forward again to gain third place.

Lady Laverna did not like the hard ground that day and jumped wildly to the left at all the obstacles.

Only four horses faced the starter for

the maiden race which was won by Barton Williams' *Modern Man*, who like the runner-up *Firrhlands* finished lame. *Modern Man* was ridden by John Parry Keen.

Tim Rooney was not the only Welsh rider to have his season curtailed as Paul Hamer and John Llewellyn also had their seasons shortened owing to injury.

The year 1990 was also the year that Bill Evans' *Timber Tool* won the inaugural Daily Telegraph Cup, which went to the horse who won the most races during the season. Trained by Bill's wife Mary, mother of Llancarfan's Evan Williams, *Timber Tool*, ridden by Rooney and later by Llewellyn, won 11 of his 12 races, one of which included a walk-over.

His one defeat was by *Katesville* whom he had beaten earlier that season.

Timber Tool used to take his fences at breakneck speed and more often than not clocked the fastest time of the day.

You can e-mail your horse racing/point-to-point stories and pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or telephone 02920736438.

Sully View Rugby Club fretting over inactivity

SULLY View RFC has not had a fixture for four weeks, and next weekend's game against Tongwynlais looks in doubt, as the visitors are seeking a postponement.

This inactivity during the autumn internationals causes grassroots rugby major problems in keeping players active, and income streams vibrant.

The next social event is the reunion night on Friday, November 25, starting at 7:30pm in the Market Street Club.

Although attended, in the main, by the club's older section, all players/members are most welcome, with a special invitation going out to all the current players who have now settled into the newly-reformed club.

As the last two reunions have been successful in raising money for charity, it has been decided that all reunions will include charity fundraising, and so those attending will be asked to contribute £5 to cover food, raffle and a donation to charity.

These get together are proving most successful, as old friendships are revived, stories, and memories, of the past exchanged, and topped off with a good old fashioned rugby sing-a-long.

Further events planned will at the Sully Club on Saturday, December 17, and on New Year's Eve.

MJS

BBC Wales' eight contenders for sports personality

AFTER one of the greatest years in Welsh sporting history, the eight contenders for the prestigious BBC Wales Sports Personality of the Year 2016 award have been revealed.

The contenders are:

- Paralympic javelin gold medalist **Hollie Arnold**, who enjoyed an unbeaten season in 2016.

- Wales international and Real Madrid Champions League winning footballer **Gareth Bale**, who was part of the Euro 2016 team that reached the semi-finals.

- Olympic cycling team pursuit gold medalist **Elinor Barker**, who also made an immediate impact after turning to individual competition.

- Paralympic shot put gold medalist **Aled Sion Davies**, who also won gold in the shot put and discus in the European Championships, setting World and Paralympic records along the way.

- Owain Doull**, another Olympic cycling team pursuit gold medalist, who has enjoyed his best season to date.

- Taekwondo athlete **Jade Jones**, who successfully retained her Olympic title and also became European Champion in 2016.

- Olympic sailor **Hannah Mills**, who upgraded her London 2012 silver medal to gold in the 470 class at the 2016 Games in Rio.

- The reigning IBF World Featherweight Champion **Lee Selby**, who defended his title

this year.

The award will be decided by public vote with the winner announced at the Wales Sport Awards 2016 on Monday 5 December at Hoddinott Hall in Cardiff.

Public voting, by phone and text, opens on Monday, November 28, until Saturday, December 3. Full details of how to vote will be given on Monday, November 28 at bbc.co.uk/sportwales

The shortlist was chosen by an expert panel made up of Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson; footballer Nathan Blake; Welsh Gymnastics chief executive Rhian Gibson; athlete Christian Malcolm and was chaired by former Wales rugby international Nigel Walker.

Fans can watch the Wales Sport Awards 2016 live from 7.30pm on Monday, December 5, at bbc.co.uk/sportwales, BBC iPlayer and the Red Button. The event will also be live on BBC Radio Wales.

Evan's bandwagon keeps rolling on

THE Evan Williams bandwagon rolls on.

At Ludlow on Monday where he is leading trainer - he's saddled 41 winners there to date - he took the TotePlacePot Racing's Favourite Bet Maiden Hurdle with his four-year-old brown gelding *Old Salt* who, under stable jockey Paul Moloney, came home one-and-three-quarter lengths ahead of *Crievehill* at odds of 9-2.

Later in the Tote Pool Racing For All Your Racing News

Handicap Chase, Adam Wedge was successful on Evan's 10-year-old bay gelding *Tornado In Milan*, the 11-8 favourite.

Evan's other runner in this race, *Going Concern*, partnered by Paul Moloney, was still in with a chance when falling three fences from the finish.

Evan was winning this race for the third time having trained the winner in 2011 and 2013 while Paul brought his total of wins at Hereford to 24.

BRIAN LEE

Oxwich Bay wins

THE Evan Williams trained Oxwich Bay won the BetFred Mobile Standard Open National Hunt Flat race at Sedgfield on November 22 by two-and-three quarter lengths from Dear Sire, writes Brian Lee.

A 7-2 chance, *Oxwich Bay* was ridden by 7lb claiming jockey Lewis Gordon.

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PORTHCAWL COMPREHENSIVE RAISES VITAL CASH FOR LOCAL GOOD CAUSES

PHOTOGRAPHS by
MALCOLM NUGENT



(CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 5).

THERE was plenty of imagination and attention to detail on show during Children in Need Day in Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

A lot of detail went into 'The Scoobies' (right), and 'The Avengers' (far right).

And as far as the Sombbrero girls go, keep quiet about it when planning foreign travel, as there may be Visa problems in the USA when Donald Trump takes office!



Pencoed and Athletic youth teams deliver a cracking example of rugby



ABOVE: Dewi Cross, try scorer and BELOW: Dewi Parrish.



THIS Bridgend & District Youth Cup first round match between Pencoed youth and Bridgend Athletic youth was only made possible following the considerable efforts of the youth coaches and committee to get the Recreation Ground playable.

What transpired was a credit to both teams who displayed good skills in the most difficult of conditions.

Jacob Lloyd opened the scoring for Pencoed with a penalty goal before Luke Bevan soon levelled matters from the tee, and a further penalty from Bevan gave his side a 3-6 lead.

Pencoed then scored the first try of the match, a fine individual effort from Dewi Cross who split the visitors' midfield with a dummy before racing in at the posts, Lloyd converted.

Pencoed then got a second try, Lloyd counter attacking from inside his own half to break some 40 metres and a floated inside pass saw the supporting Cross get his second. Lloyd converted for Pencoed to lead 17-6 at the interval.

To their credit, the Ath hit back immediately on the resumption of play, close knit driving play from their pack exhausted Pencoed's defensive numbers only metres out and Luke Williams drove over for their first try to reduce the deficit to 17-11.

Lloyd then kicked a home penalty before the visitors, through their big pack, proceeded to enjoy their best period of the match in terms of possession and territory, and got their second try when a wide arcing run from Sam Richards saw him score wide out.

Bevan added the tricky conversion, and into the



ABOVE: Tom Williams.
ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.

last quarter it was anyone's match at 20-18.

Lloyd then gave his side some breathing space with a well-judged penalty in the deteriorating underfoot conditions.

At 23-18 a place in the second round was still up for grabs in the final minutes and with both sets of rival supporters on tenterhooks, a further penalty opportunity fell to Pencoed, and with it descended a hush over the Recreation ground with both camps realizing the kick would effectively decide the outcome.

As he had done throughout the match, Lloyd made light work of the underfoot conditions and his unerring boot struck to steer Pencoed home to victory.

For the home side in what was essentially a team effort, coach Matthew Harry singled out Jack Thompson, the flanker winning some key turnovers.

The match itself was a great advertisement for local youth rugby and both teams discipline in testing conditions most commendable.

Bridgend Bridge Club news

THE results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are:

Wednesday, November 16, Club: First, Julian Pottage and Jonathan Ratcliffe; Second, Mike Best and David Birt; Third, Norma and David Newman; Third, Rob Forman and Alan Heath. The winners on handicap were Mike Best and David Birt.

Thursday, November 17: First, Mike Williams and Gareth Jenkins; Second, Margaret Roach and Marjorie Halley; Third, Diane Reynolds and Leila O'Hagan. The winners on handicap were Mike Williams and Gareth Jenkins.

Friday, November 18: First: Glyn Williams and Ann Fox; Second: Vida Halford and Linda Pinnock; Third, Linda Jenkins and Bill Turner. The winners on handicap were Glyn Williams and Ann Fox.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Noltan Church Hall. Play is scheduled to begin at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session. Master points are awarded, but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TG

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Glamorgan Gazette	9,094	Paid 90p
Wales on Sunday	14,789	Paid £1.50

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(Figures correct
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The GEM



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Family Notices

THOMAS

Lilian Beryl (née Lewis)

Of Pontypridd Road, Barry
(formerly of Coleg-y-Fro, Rhosce)

Died peacefully on Tuesday, November 15 at Llandough Hospital. Beloved wife of the late K.B. Thomas; much loved mum of Shaun and Bethan and mother-in-law of Alison.

She touched and enriched the lives of so many people and she will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Burial at Porthkerry Cemetery Tuesday, November 29, family only. Donations in lieu of flowers to the Samaritans at www.justgiving.com/LilianBerylThomas or c/o A.G. Adams & Son, Funeral Home, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA.

LEWIS

Margaret Sheila

Peacefully after a long illness, Margaret, loving wife of the late Reverend Roy Lewis, will be sadly missed by all.

Funeral service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Colwinston on Friday, December 2 at 11am, followed by interment.

Flowers may be sent to J.R. & M.F. David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB, or donations may be given to either Bro Castle Care Home, Ewenny, Bridgend or St Michael and All Angels Church, Colwinston.

PUGH

Glenys Julia

Peacefully passed away after a long illness, much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

She will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Always loved, always remembered.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, December 2 at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired, may be given to Wick Chapel c/o Mr M. Lalis, 1 Criag Yr Eos Place, Ogmore-by-Sea, CF32 0TX.

Birthdays

Happy
85th
Birthday
Brenda Percy
on 25th November
Lots of love
from all the family
xxx



Birthdays

★ **OMG!** ★
Chris White
is 70!
on 30th November

How did that happen?

How did he get to be that old?

Where did the time go?

The journey with you has been fab. I would not have missed any of it (well most of it anyway). You are a super husband, uncle & friend. A wonderful golfer, lover and all round good egg (well, 1 out of the 3). Enjoy your celebrations. Can't wait for the rest of this journey with you.

★ All my love, Sue

Callum James Rogers
Happy 18th Birthday
on 28th November
Hope you have a fantastic day. Enjoy Celebrating!
Lots of love, hugs and kisses
Mum, Gramps, PJay and Kenno xxx




CALLUM JAMES ROGERS
Happy 18th Birthday
ON NOVEMBER 28
To my darling grandson!
LOADS OF LOVE, NAN & BOB xxx




CHRISTOFORATO

Karl Gareth 'Ato'

Peacefully at Celynbrook Care Home on November 14, Karl, aged 40 years. Beloved son of Stephen and Jackie, stepson of Linda and Danny, much loved brother of Justin, Tina and Bowie, Steven, Tino, Jade and Nikki. Loved uncle to Malaki, Vaughn, Theo, Keanna, Tessia, Rio and Nye.

Karl will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service at St Davids Methodist Church on Tuesday, November 29 at 11.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired for Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth c/o the funeral director. In memory of Karl, please no black but camouflaged colours to be worn.

DIMOND

Sheila Margaret

Peacefully at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry on November 21st, Sheila, aged 87 years. Beloved wife of the late Clifford, much loved mum to Christine and Karen. Loving mother-in-law of Kevan and the late Gary. A cherished nan of Nikki, David, Kelly and Tom, also an adored great nanna.

She will be dearly missed by all her family and many friends.

Resting in the Private Chapel of the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at All Saints Church, Barry on Friday, December 2nd at 2pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support All Saints Roof Restoration Fund. You are also welcome to leave your memories and personal messages on Sheila's online tribute page @ www.valefuneralservice.co.uk

FOULDS

Patricia Mary

Peacefully on November 17 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, surrounded by her family, Patricia of Llantwit Major. Wife of the late John, dearly loved mother of William, Jane and Andrea and a much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Monday, November 28 in Coychurch Crematorium at 10.30am. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Cancer Research UK c/o the funeral home.

VARNEY

Jim

Peacefully on November 13 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Jim of Llantwit Major, devoted husband of Doreen, step dad to Jacqui, Alison and Graham. Beloved grandfather to Nicole and Danielle, precious great grandfather to Theo and India.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonon. Funeral Thursday, December 1, service and cremation 10.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations if desired to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice c/o J James, 11 Ffnonon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ. Family request that bright colours are worn.

In Memory

MARTIN

Janice Doreen (née Biston)

21/1/1949-27/11/2015

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Public Notice

LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR

A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER SECTION 17

Notice is hereby given that on the 15th November 2016 Wm Morrisons Supermarkets PLC applied to Vale of Glamorgan Council for a Premises Licence in respect of Morrisons Daily Petrol Filling Station, Heol Ceinlog, Barry CF63 4BA. The proposed licensable activities are:- 1. The supply of alcohol on Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 00.00 to 24.00. 2. To permit late night refreshment on Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 23.00 and 05.00. Any representations by a responsible authority or any other person regarding this application must be received in writing by:- Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4FU no later than the 13th December 2016 stating the grounds for representations. The register of Vale of Glamorgan Council and the record of the application may be inspected at the above address during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is unlimited.

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What's on, and where?

PACT meetings

CADOC - Meet your local officers at Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry today Thursday, November 24 from 11am and 1pm.

GIBBONS DOWN - Meet your local neighbourhood team at Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry every Monday between 10am and 12 noon.

Dyfan PACT - at Highlight Park Community Centre at 7pm on Sunday, December 4.

Llandow Eweny coffee & chat at the Star Inn, Treos on Tuesday, November 29 at 11am.

AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will hold a surgery on Saturday, November 26 from 10am - 11am at Barry CAB office, 119 Broad Street (CF62 7TZ).

No appointment necessary.

Councillors' surgery

DYFAN Ward Councillors Claire Curtis and Anthony Powell will be holding their residents' surgery on Saturday, November 26 at Awberry House, Buttrills Walk, Barry commencing at 10am.

All residents are welcome to attend and no appointment is necessary.

Coffee in Llantrithyd

St Iltyd's Church, Llantrithyd is holding a coffee morning at 10.30am - noon, on Saturday, November 26 at the Old Rectory, Llantrithyd by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Alan Meredith.

There will be cake stands, tea and coffee, Christmas items and a raffle. All proceeds to church funds. Entry £ 5 on the door.

Farmers' market

THE next farmers' market at Porthcawl will be on Saturday, November 26 from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

This will be the first market to be held at the Griffin Park Community Hall in New Road, Porthcawl. The local producers will be there, plus a producer of chocolates.

The market café will be open and we hope that Griffin Park will be more accessible, as it is on the main road and close to the bus stop.

Christmas Fair at the Cathedral

CARDIFF Metropolitan Cathedral is holding its Christmas fair at the cathedral in Charles Street on Saturday, November 26.

The fair will open from 11am - 3pm and all are welcome.

Bach choir in concert

ON Saturday, November 26, at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff Bach Choir will take a musical journey spanning five centuries and featuring the music of Palestrina, JS Bach, Josef Haydn, Schubert, and Bob Chilcott.

Poetry Penned on the Bont

THE next instalment of 'Penned on The Bont' at Carnegie House in Bridgend will be presented tonight (Thursday, November 24) at 7.30pm.

It features the award-winning, bilingual 'Bloodaxe' poet Menna Elfyn, multi-award winning Bridgend poet Robert Minhinick, and an open mic.

Admission is £4. For more information, contact 01656 815 717 or go to bridgend.tc@bridgend.gov.uk or www.carnegie.house.co.uk.

LIBRARY CAROLS

DINAS POWYS Community Library and Activity Centre invites the public to 'Carols in the Library' with Dinas Powys Primary School Choir, on Monday, December 5 at 2.30pm.

It is the first social event organised on behalf of the community library, which started life this month. The library is located next to the primary school.

The library became self-governing following detailed negotiations with the Vale Council.

Apart from supporting this event people will be able to ask about volunteer opportunities.

Currently, the library has around 40 volunteer, but is keen to sign up more.

Chris Franks, chair of the Library Trust, said: "We are starting to make progress after the months of challenging preparations. Already we have developed a strong team to continue the excellent work of the professional librarians."

Entrance £2 including refreshments. All donations will go towards the library maintenance costs and help to keep the library open.

It will reflect changing styles in church and concert music from early renaissance, baroque, classical and romantic, to 20th century jazz.

The choir, under conductor Luke Spencer, is joined by Welsh soloists soprano Claire Watkins, mezzo-soprano Eirlys Myfanwy Davies, tenor Gareth Dafydd Morris, and baritone Edmund Caird, who is studying at the RWCMD.

The choir will be accompanied by organist Philip Aspden and pianist Sally Tarlton.

The Little Jazz Mass by Bob Chilcott will feature a jazz duo of Ashley John Long on double bass and Simon Blake on drums.

For more information, visit www.cardiffbachoir.org.uk.

Beach litter pick

FRIENDS of Barry Beaches' next litter pick will be on Sunday, November 27 at Jackson's Bay, Barry.

Volunteers should head down the path to the beach and we meet at the toilet block at 3pm. Litter pickers and bags provided, but wear suitable clothing and footwear.

Children are always welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

Volunteers old and new welcomed to help keep Barry's beaches clean.

Llancarfan Tuesday Club

LLANCARFAN Ladies' Tuesday Club's next meeting will be on November 29 at 7.45pm in the Llancarfan Village Hall; our speaker will be Mrs Mary Grey who will be demonstrating a selection of Christmas floral arrangements.

All are welcome, refreshments and raffle.

Age Connects Christmas fair

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop are holding a Christmas fair on Tuesday, November 29.

The fair will be held in the Civic Offices from 10am - 12pm, admission free.

Cakes, home-made crafts, Christmas decorations, floral gifts, jewellery, tombola, bric-a-brac and much more; refreshments available.

A prize draw will be held with many attractive prizes donated by local businesses. Tickets are 20p each and the draw will take place at the fair. All proceeds to Age Connects' Senior Health Shop.

Talk on preserves

LLANTWIT Major Horticultural Society's next meeting is Wednesday, November 30 from 7.30pm at Llantwit Hall, Llantwit Major when our speaker will be Nicole Burnett on 'Potted Garden Delights - A Social History of Preserving'.

New members and visitors always welcome.

Help with the Internet

ON Thursday, December 1 Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) will hold free one-to-one sessions with voluntary organisations

and community groups to help them with funding searches on the Internet.

"BAVO's funding service helps groups to navigate the complexities of fundraising by sharing knowledge, experience and expertise. BAVO will help you learn to use their free online search tool, BAVO 4 Community, and many other useful sources," a spokeswoman said.

One-hour sessions are available from 10am - 4pm; advance booking is necessary; call BAVO on 01656 810400.

Jo's coffee morning

THE annual 'Jo's Coffee Morning' will be held in Iltyd 216 between 10am and 12pm on Thursday, December 1 (this is a change from the normal Friday).

Tickets are £10, which will all go to Holme Towers. Coffee, cake and raffle on the day.

Tenovus Lovelight concert

THE Friends of Tenovus, Bridgend have organised a Lovelight Christmas concert on December 2 at St Mary's Church, Noltan, Bridgend at 7.30pm.

An evening of uplifting music and song, this is a celebration to support everyone affected by cancer, and to remember loved ones.

Bridgend choir will sing with St Bride's Major School choir, and several solo performers in voice and harp. Compèred by Huw Iwan Davies AM.

Tickets on sale now, £8 (concessions £4) from Debbie Davies on 07719 425200.

Bridgend toy and train sale

ON Saturday, December 3 from 10.30am to 3pm at Bridgend Leisure Centre, Angel Street (CF31 4AH) this event boasts a large car park, level and easy access and an excellent in-house cafe as well as being well-lit and warm.

Call 01643 702757 or 07966 694579, or www.chrisdayfair.org for more information.

Light up Llancarfan

THE annual lighting of the Llancarfan Christmas tree will take place on Sunday, December 4 at 6pm at the ford in Llancarfan.

There will be carols, mince pies and mulled wine (weather permitting) and the lights will be turned on by the winner of the Llancarfan Primary School painting competition - to be announced.

Festive offerings

BARRY Town Mayor, Coun Charlotte Williams, will be holding a Christmas coffee morning at St Mary's Church on Monday, December 19, 10am-12pm to raise money for her three charities.

Stalls will sell festive goodies and crafts. To book a space, or for more information, contact info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone 01446 738663.

CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS AT ST DONAT'S CASTLE

HERALDING the start of the festive season, Sunday, December 4 sees the return of 'Crafts for Christmas' at St Donat's Castle.

This popular annual craft fair showcases a mix of handmade crafts and food exhibitors; the perfect opportunity to kick-start your Christmas shopping!

There are 60 stalls to browse, including some first time exhibitors such as Seahorse Driftwood, The White Heart Gift Company and Copper Pot Fudge.

The organisers are delighted to welcome back the award-winning artisan baker Alex Gooch to the food hall. Alex will be selling a range of breads including focaccia, brioche and

spiced buns. Crafts for Christmas takes place in the stunning grounds of St Donat's Castle and Arts Centre and will feature a bird of prey display in the medieval castle courtyard.

Younger visitors can enjoy face painting by Fabulous Faces, not forgetting that all important chance to meet Santa!

In addition to craft and food stalls, there will be live music throughout the day in the café area. If it's street food you're after, then don't forget to head for one of the many outdoor food exhibitors for something hot and tasty!

It all takes place 10.30am to 4.30pm Sunday, December 4.

Entrance fee to Crafts for Christmas is £6 per car or £2 per person on foot.

Go to **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS IN FINAL OF THE WALES SPORT AWARDS

THREE sports volunteers from Bridgend county borough have been shortlisted as finalists in the Wales Sport Awards, the country's biggest annual celebration of elite and grassroots sport.

Sixteen-year-old Megan Curling from Maesteg is in the running for Young Volunteer of the Year, while 24-year-old Jamie Evans from Brackla is a finalist in the Young Coach of the Year category and Emily Griffiths, also 24 and from Brackla, is being recognised in the Coach to Disabled People category.

Megan Curling's nomination is due to her volunteering role within the Girls Network, where she's helping to get more young girls into physical activity, and also delivering multi-skills sport sessions to youngsters at her old school, Garth Primary.

Megan's commitment to grassroots sport doesn't stop there – she is also a volunteer coach at Maesteg Trampoline Club where she supports young children to take part in physical activity from a young age.

Young coach contender Jamie Evans is the head coach at Pencoed Gymnastics and Tumbling Club and also coaches the Welsh Tumbling team as one of the very few tumbling coaches in Wales with high level qualifications.

After attending Pencoed Tumbling Club from a young age, Jamie took over as Head Coach when the club faced closure in 2012. The club is one of the most successful in Wales, and recently saw four of its members competing in the British Tumbling Finals.

The third local award contender, Emily Griffiths, volunteers as Head Coach for the South Wales Titans,

which is a Paralympic swim academy covering Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend County Borough.

Emily, whose day job is Sports Recovery Co-ordinator for Help for Heroes, has had a busy year after being selected to coach Team UK at the Invictus Games and was also appointed Head Coach for the Warrior Games.

Her hard work has also earned her a spot as a Swim Wales coach for the Para-Swimming National Championships.

The Wales Sport Awards is organised jointly by Sport Wales and BBC Wales to celebrate volunteers for their outstanding contributions to community sport throughout Wales, and the winners will be announced at a celebratory awards ceremony in Cardiff on December 5.

Coun Huw David, Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, said: "We're so proud to have three Bridgend County Borough coaches recognised at these prestigious awards."

"Megan Curling is a great example of how our AYPD leadership pathway is creating young volunteers who are in-turn developing opportunities for other young people within the county borough to be active and healthy. These volunteers are inspirational with the work they do and their commitment to helping others."

"I'd like to say a huge well done to Megan, Jamie and Emily for selflessly giving up their time to volunteer and for contributing to grass roots sports opportunities. We wish them all the best for the final of the Wales Sport Awards."

You can find out more about the awards at www.walesportawards.co.uk



Megan Curling, pictured second from right with members of the Girls Network, is in the running for Young Volunteer of the Year.



LEFT: Jamie Evans, Head Coach at Pencoed Gymnastics and Tumbling Club, is a finalist in the Young Coach of the Year category.



RIGHT: Emily Griffiths, who is Head Coach for the South Wales Titans Paralympic swim academy has been shortlisted for the Coach to Disabled People award.

Latest Barry and District League results

LATEST results for the Barry and District League are as follows:

Crib division 1: West End 6, Moors Boys 9; Wyndham Cons 3, Rhose Social 12.
League Table: Rhose Social 72, Liberals 70, Wyndham Cons 65, Moors Boys 60, West End 58, Cadoxton Cons 57, West End Runaways 53.
Skittles division 1: Sea View B 6, Rugby Club 1; King William XII 5½, Barries Boys 1½; Allsorts 6, Rhose Social A 1; Slammers 6, Cambrian Flyers 1; Liberals C 1½, Rhose Social 5½; Rhose Social C 2½, Liberals A 4½; West End D 5½, West End C 1½.
League table: King William XII 42.0; West End D 40.5; Rhose Social B 37.0; West End C 35.0; Rhose Social 33.0; Allsorts 32.0; Barries Boys 30.5; Rugby Club 29.5; Liberals C 25.5; Sea View B 25.0; Rhose Social C 24.0; Rhose Social A 23.5, Slammers 22.5; Cambrian Flyers 17.5; Liberals A 16.5.
Snooker Division 1: Rhose Social C 0, Harbour B 51, Cadoxton Cons B 1, Cadoxton Cons Z 4, Savoy A 5, Wyndham Cons A 0, Penarth Cons A 1, West End C 4, Penarth Cons B, Services Social B 3.
League Table: Savoy A 43; Harbour B 39, Cadoxton Cons Z 32; Cadoxton Cons B 24; Wyndham Cons A 23; Penarth Cons A 20; Services Social B 20; Rhose Social B 19; West End C 18; Rhose Social C 16; Penarth Cons B 11.
Snooker Division 2: Wyndham Cons C 3, Wyndham Cons D 2; Harbour A 4, Cadoxton Cons A 1; Savoy B 5, Sully Sports A 0; West End B 1, Market Street B 4.
League Table: Liberators 31, Savoy B 31, Wyndham Cons C 30, Harbour A 28, Market Street B 28, Market Street C 25, Cadoxton Cons A 24, West End A 19, West End B 19; Sully Sports A 18, Wyndham Cons D 17.

Ben's busy weekend sees him land gold!



BEN Moore, a year-seven pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, has had

another busy weekend, taking gold at the Welsh Championships on Saturday.

This secured his place in the Welsh pre-Cadet squad for 2016/2017 saw him become Welsh Champion 2016 in the under-12s under-42kg.

This was then topped off by battling his way to gold again in the British Judo Council (BJC) Nationals to become BJC champion for 2016.

He has put in a great foundation ahead of the international selection for Holland, which takes place next weekend.

LAST DINNER OF THE YEAR FOR THE BRYNHILL GOLFING LADIES



ON Friday, November 18, the Brynhill Golf Club ladies' section attended their last dinner of the year under the captaincy of Mrs. Liz Fine.

The ladies' captain thanked all the ladies' for their support during her term of office. Liz hands over the reins of running the ladies' section to Olwen Thomas at the ladies' AGM on Tuesday, November 22.

Liz and Olwen presented prizes to some of the ladies who had won competitions over the last few months. The captain and vice-captain entered into the spirit of



Children in Need and dressed up in their pyjamas for the occasion!
A delicious fruit cake was donated by Ann Phillips and this was

expertly decorated with a Pudsey Bear by Julie Harkin. The cake was raffled and £105 was raised for Children in Need. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Results: Texas Scramble winners: Gemma Evans, Linda Hewlett, Andrea Page and Norma Phillips; Birdie tree winner: Gemma Evans; Par tree winner: Lisa Taylor, Shirley O' Donovan. Nett winner winter eclectic: Shirley O'Donovan; Gross winner winter eclectic: Jan Robertson; Nett winner summer eclectic: Lisa Taylor; Gross winner summer eclectic: Jan Robertson.

JK



TEN WELSH BOWLERS HEAD DOWN UNDER!

TEN Welsh bowlers will be making the trip to New Zealand later this month to take part in the World Bowls Championships.

Held every four years, the sport's showpiece competition is being held in Christchurch, with players from 34 nations competing for honours from November 29 until December 11.

The Welsh squad has qualified male and females bowlers across all disciplines – singles, pairs, triples and fours – and will send five men and five women to compete across the competition.

Commonwealth Games medallists

Robert Weale, Anwen Butten, Marc Wyatt and Jonathan Tomlinson are among those who will make the trip.

Hazel Wilson, women's senior team manager, commented: "We qualified across all the disciplines at the Atlantic Championships in Cyprus last year, so this is another positive step for bowls in Wales."

"We'll be competing against the best in the world and it's a huge challenge for our bowlers, but one we've been working hard to prepare for. We've played a test match against Scotland as part of the build-up."

"We're expecting the greens to be quick given the warm weather at this

time of year.

"We've got a good blend in our squads so we're all looking forward to getting started now."

PB

Barry RFC are ready for action

IT'S back to league action this Saturday when Barry RFC entertain Old Iltydians with the early 1.30pm kick off due to the Wales v South Africa game, which begins at 5.30pm.

Following these matches, the club's Christmas draw will take place and the lottery, with this week's prize fund at £3,000.

Those selling draw tickets are asked to leave monies and counterfoils at the bar with Carol by Friday night.

Last week's lottery numbers were 07, 10, 13 and 23.

AJ

An excellent performance from Cowbridge RFC under-16s

LAST Sunday, Cowbridge under-16s produced an excellent performance to deliver a hard fought away victory at Caldicot RFC.

The victory was even sweeter because the team had to play the entire match with only 14 players.

The boys got off to a great start with an early try from their captain, Jack Little. Evan Thomas put the team deep into the Caldicot 22 with a superb clearing kick.

From the line-out Iestyn Fenn put the Caldicot line out under enormous pressure. This caused Caldicot to knock the ball on. Cowbridge were awarded a scrum five metres from the Caldicot line.

Little picked the ball up and ran hard at the Caldicot line, quickly recycled ball allowed Ioan Williams to get his backs moving. A simple scissor move in the backs brought the ball back to the forwards. Jake Cannon.

The Cowbridge hooker, picked the ball up and ran down the blind-side and made a subtle off load to Little who forced his way over the line. Caldicot under-16s 0, Cowbridge under-16s 5.

Caldicot came back hard at Cowbridge, and it was a brilliant defensive set that kept the much larger Caldicot pack away from the Cowbridge line.

A text-book turnover from Ben Jones allowed Thomas to clear his lines again with a huge kick. A disciplined chase by all the backs put the Caldicot full back under

pressure which resulted in Cowbridge being awarded a penalty. Ioan Williams took the three points.

Once again Caldicot put Cowbridge under intense pressure straight from the kick off. Cowbridge defence held their nerve and defended their line heroically.

From a turnover just outside his own 22, Thomas put in a high clearing kick, which Harry Ridge, the Cowbridge outside centre to caught just before the Caldicot full-back.

Ridge then showed great pace to make to the try line without a hand being laid on him. Ioan Williams converted to make it Caldicot under-16s 0, Cowbridge under-16s 15.

Just before half-time Caldicot got a well-deserved try of their own. From a line out five metres from the Cowbridge line, Caldicot executed an excellent rolling maul to get onto the score sheet.

The half-time score was Caldicot under-16s 5, Cowbridge under-16s 15.

The second half followed a similar pattern to the first, with Caldicot on the attack but Cowbridge defending incredibly well.

With the penalty count growing, the Cowbridge coaches were becoming increasingly frustrated with their team's lack of discipline.

After an energy sapping 10 minutes of defensive pressure Cowbridge managed to clear their lines. Cowbridge next score was created on the training ground and pleased the coaches to see their hard work in training coming off during a game.

Quick ball out of the line out from Barney Langton-Cryer allowed Williams to give Thomas great quick ball.

With a few dummy runners, Thomas delayed his pass just enough to put Jack Dixon clear to score under the posts. Williams converted to make it Caldicot under-16s 5, Cowbridge under-16s 22.

With the last play of the game Caldicot managed a very similar try to the one that closed out the first half to make the final score 10-22.

GJ

CAVC's Jamie coaches Yeovil to promotion

CARDIFF and Vale College head of football Jamie Sherwood has seen the team he is Manager and Head Coach of, Yeovil Town Ladies, secure promotion to the top division of the Women's Super League.

The Lady Glovers beat Sheffield FC 3-0, seeing them claim the FA Women's Super League 2 title. They had already confirmed promotion from the Women's Super League 2 to the top flight of female football with an early win against London Bees.

Jamie joined CAVC in 2015 from the Welsh Football Trust, taking charge of the College's Football Academy. Bringing with him a wealth of experience in the game, Jamie has been involved in professional football since the age of 14, playing in clubs such as Everton FC and Torquay United FC.

At the age of 18 Jamie started his coaching career and has worked as Newport Men's Manager and led the Welsh University Games in Edinburgh. He developed a women's football programme at Cardiff City FC and has worked to develop the women's game in both the UK and UK, and is currently First Team Manager at Yeovil Town Ladies FC.

CAVC's Football Academy offers talented footballers aged 16-19 a comprehensive player development programme to develop their skills both on and off the pitch in a professional environment. The Academy places a strong emphasis on balancing sporting performance with educational achievement.

Since starting at the College, Jamie has built up the CAVC Ladies Football Academy. Team CAVs, the College's first female squad, triumphed earlier this year by winning the Welsh College's Football Association Female Cup.

CAVC Head of Sport, Public Services and Academics, James



Young, said: "Jamie has been a great addition to the College's Sports department in the short time he has been head of football. His passion and experience for football development and coaching at all levels, especially in the female game, has led to the development and the CAVC Female Academy programme, which has entered the Association of Colleges Elite competition.

"What Jamie has achieved with the Yeovil Ladies FC team is fantastic. However, it does not surprise me as his commitment and attention to detail is outstanding. He is a real payer-focused manager who understands every player's strengths and needs.

"Everyone at Cardiff and Vale College wishes Jamie all the best for the forthcoming season as his Yeovil Ladies squad face the best female teams in the English football system."

Jamie said: "I feel that Yeovil Town Ladies FC has benefited from my day-to-day work with the CAVC Football Academy. To be able to focus my coaching and management with the Academy allows me to refine the skills needed to develop the club.

"The daily opportunities to work with players individually and collectively develops me as a coach and what has been achieved has been attributed to the work I do daily with CAVC Football Academy. To see Yeovil Town Ladies FC now competing in the highest domestic league in the female game and one of the strongest leagues in European football is a highlight of my footballing career.

"I am immensely proud of the work done at YTLFC but that will have to continue to allow us to develop the club to move forward continually and the same applies to the CAVC Football Academy – we have the desire to improve, become stronger and develop further competitive playing opportunities within the College. I am hungry to drive and deliver both on and off the pitch for CAVC Football Academy and YTLFC."

BRIAN LEE



Les Cundliffe, Ivor Robinson, Howard Craven and Jack Hartman competition winner Roy Harding.

TROPHIES AWARDED AT CADOXTON BOWLS CLUB



Personality of the year winner Ewan Heppenstall.



Club secretary David Fanning, club treasurer Don Kuhnell, and new boy John Papoutsou with their Triples competition award.

WHETHER you are still at school or enjoying your retirement, lawn bowling offers you a wide range of healthy and challenging benefits.

That's the message from David Fanning, president of the South Vale District Bowling Association, commenting on the recent awards presentation evening of Cadoxton Bowling Club, which honoured members in their first year of membership and those who have belonged to the club for many years.

Ewan Heppenstall, the club's youngest and most energetic member, celebrated the past season by winning the novice competition and by being voted personality of the year.

Another new member, John Papoutsou, joined with long-standing

members club secretary David Fanning and club treasurer Don Kuhnell in winning the triples competition, while newcomer Will Craven marked a successful first year by winning a tightly-fought championship competition before teaming up with his father, club captain Howard Craven, to win the pairs competition.

At the other end of the spectrum, club stalwart Roy Harding tightened his grip on the Jack Hartman trophy for the over-60s by winning it again in an entertaining match against fellow veteran Ivor Robinson.

"All in all," said club president Les Cundliffe, "the evening underlined the splendid enthusiasm and high playing standards of the club's playing members and was a fitting climax to the club's 108th season."

DF



Championship winner Will Craven.

Vale under-15s kick off with win

THE Vale of Glamorgan under-15s squad opened their Dewar Shield campaign with a hard-fought 26-0 win over Llanelli Schools.

Playing under floodlights on Canton RFC's new 4G pitch, the opening exchanges were fairly even, before Ioan Copper opened the scoring with a try in the corner, converting his own try for a 7-0 lead.

Undaunted, Llanelli fought back with a series of driving mauls from the lineout before releasing their back line, but the Vale defence held firm and the Vale extended their lead with another try from Evan Lloyd, again converted by Ioan.



The second half began with Llanelli taking the game to the Vale, attacking deep into Vale territory, but the well-drilled defence held, and with Llanelli giving away a number of penalties the pressure was relieved.

Quick ball from the scrum saw Benji Williams crash over for a third Vale try to take the score to 19-0. A final well-worked try from Iestyn Galton and a further conversion from Ioan Copper took the score to 26-0.

The squad would like to thank their coaches and parents for their help and support and

their kit sponsors Apricot Online.

The Vale's next Dewar Shield match is an away tie against north Wales school RGC West.

You can follow the team's progress on Twitter, @ValeSchoolsU15.

MV

Elisha to represent South Wales



Congratulations to Elisha Plant of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School who has been chosen to play football for South Wales. Elisha trains with the Sully Pinks every Friday and plays a match most Sundays. Well done Elisha, we are proud of you!

Flint wins in Fakenham

VALE trainer John Flint saw his nine-year-old bay gelding Taroum come home three lengths ahead of fellow Vale trainer Evan Williams' Jonagold, the 2-1 favourite, in the opening selling handicap hurdle at Fakenham on Tuesday.

Taroum, who went off at odds of 7-2, was ridden by Tom O'Brien.

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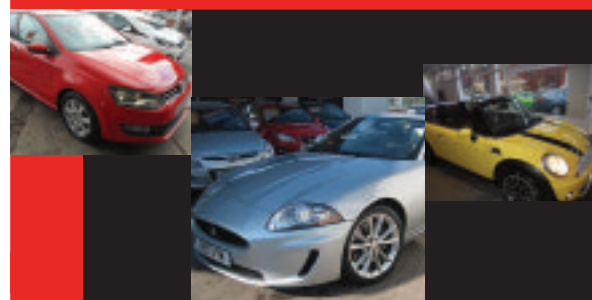
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Dinas Ladies' put four past the Willows

WILLOWS haven't occupied a top three space in the league all season for no reason – so visitors Dinas Powys Ladies were always going to push the home team in this encounter.

Making her first start since signing, Demi Bounds reacted fastest in the penalty area when Rachel Beare contested a corner with the keeper and the young Dinas forward rifled home from five yards to give the villagers a dream start.

As the half wore on, Dinas took control of the play, creating enough good chances to be at least a couple up but poor finishing and a keeper in inspired form proved the difference.

At the break the girls were kindly reminded what was required to get the job done and the reaction was superb.

Laura Murray showed why the coaches have faith in her as she coolly rounded the keeper to double the lead.

The introduction of Taylor Page had the desired affect as she assisted again with a through ball for Murray. There was still plenty to do though and the Dinas striker showed a calm head to add the third.

The Villagers' defence is now running like a well-oiled machine, giving few opportunities for any teams

as they cover and work tirelessly for each other, led by skipper Leanne Pattermore, Alex Allen, Rachel Beare and Kelly Tuck.

Recent signing Nao has formed a formidable trio with Sam Saunders and Joey Jones in the middle, all looking to play, and they kept the home side on the front foot with very little sideways or backwards play.

Willows, to their credit, always tried to play and they have a great mixture of youth and experience which made the game very entertaining from a neutral perspective.

Skipper Sam Taylor held her team together and former Dinas players, Brooke Howells and Holly Rye, put in very good displays.

With 20 minutes remaining, a rush of blood to Rachel Beare's head resulted in her chopping down the visiting winger in the box, but thankfully Wilson stood strong and watched it sail over the bar.

Nao drove her team on and Murray completed her hat-trick with a rasping strike in off the keeper.

Laura Lewis deservedly picked up player of the match as she was a thorn in visitors' side for the whole 90 minutes with a very mature display. **LS**

Lyn coaches local young rugby players



ON a night of shocking weather and torrential rain, the Llantwit Major under-12 and under-13 rugby players turned out in force for training with a spring in their step.

The reason was that former Ospreys and Dragons coach Lyn Jones was coming to the club to talk to them about working hard, achieving your goals and being the best you can be as sportsman and rugby players.

The evening started with an inspirational talk from Lyn telling the boys to work hard, put in the extra effort and learn how to train effectively in order to improve.

He spoke to them about his path to the Welsh jersey and the

work needed to achieve in both playing and coaching.

The boys would have happily sat and listened for the whole evening, but despite the wind and driving rain, a training session was also going to take place for both age groups.

The boys all worked hard in the drills set by Lyn and discussed how it is often the basics done well time and time again that can help a good player become a great one.

While all the players, coaches and parents went home soaked to the skin it was a fantastic evening and the players and coaches would like to thank Lyn Jones for giving up his time to come and talk to the boys and put them through their paces. **AI**

News from Porthcawl Bridge Club

THIS past week the club heard the sad news that one of its founder members, Linda Saunders aged 100, passed away.

Besides being a very accomplished player herself, she taught her daughter Tricia, our club secretary, the arts of the game - the club sends its condolences to all her family.

The club took part in the Children In Need Simultaneous Pairs, a competition played internationally over the same set of hands, and scored centrally, with the proceeds being donated to CIN. Over £160 was raised for this worthy cause – Pat Haworth and Pat Roper won the local event.

Recent results: Thursday, November 3, First – Dil and Marian Evans; Second – Rob

Charlesworth and John Beard. Saturday, November 5, First – Connie Dick and Marian Evans; Second – Maurice and Margaret Harris. Thursday, November 10, First – Pat Roper and John Cobby; Second – Maurice and Margaret Harris.

Saturday, November 12, First – Connie Dick and Roger Dapper; Second – Tony Haworth and Kevin Maddox. Thursday, November 17, Children In Need Simultaneous Pairs, First – Pat Haworth and Pat Roper; Second Tony Haworth and Keith Davison.

The club meets twice a week, Saturday and Thursday, at the Awel-y-Mor centre, 7pm-10.15pm, visitors are welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call our secretary, Trish, on 01656 785794. **TH**

Vale of Glamorgan Pool League round-up

LAST week's star game had to be Borough Arms versus Tadcross Hotel.

After previous defeats for both teams, both were desperate for a win.

Les Ashton of the Borough started the rout winning the first frame of the evening. The Borough were now on a roll, winning frame after frame with major contributions from Andrew Churchill, Nicholas Meadows and Robert Larkin, who came close to a eight-ball clearance from the break.

The scoreline did not do justice to some of the play by Tadcross, and it was a disappointing night for Leah and her players.

Small consolation for Leah was her award of best player by the

Borough Arms players, who were over the moon with their 10-0 win.

The Billy United were too strong for Cocopops with a comfortable 7-3 win for the travellers. Single wins for Martin Pring, Gary Roberts, Ross Jones, Dan Roderick, John Farrugia and Tony Mullins gave the Billy a 6-2 advantage.

With the points in the doubles being shared, the result was a 7-3 win for the Billy United.

At Barry Island, the game at Finnegan's saw another impressive win for the Whitchill Hotel, who now head the league.

The 9-1 scoreline flatters to deceive as most games could have gone either way. The truly remarkable Chris Bardsley won all three of his games and in game five his opponent,

the recently signed Les Mason, could only watch in awe as Chris broke off left handed then proceeded to clear all his balls, playing right handed, all in one visit.

Chris now earns himself an eight ball trophy to add to his burgeoning trophy cabinet.

Special mention for birthday girl Sian Kedward, who won comfortably, and Ian Hill who again won all his games, and his record so far in the league is played nine, won nine.

We are still looking for new players of all capabilities to join, compete and have fun on a Thursday night.

Text Joe on 07870 498738 or email us at Valeofglamorganpoolleague@gmail.com. **JB**

Mixed results in knockout cup for Barry chess teams

THIS week there was a respite from the weekly grind of league matches.

It was, however, the first round of the East Glamorgan knockout cup.

The Barry Chess Club had two teams entered and fortunately they were drawn in different halves of the competition.

In league matches the teams are made up of five players, however in the cup there are only four players in each team to ensure we both have the white pieces in two matches and the black pieces in two matches.

The first team to play was the A team. We were drawn at home to last year's runners-up, Pentrych.

We were able to put out a team consisting of four players with ratings of 1800 or above.

Having beaten Pentrych in the league already, we hoped or assumed we would win this match as well.

We drew on bottom board but managed to win on the others to give us a 3.5-0.5 victory to take us safely into round two.

We have been drawn at home again but this time will take on the cup favourites North Cardiff A.

Revenge for our league defeat would be nice but we will need to play exceptionally well and have our strongest players if we are to continue in the competition after the next round takes place in February.

Our B side were not so lucky – they were drawn away to Pontypridd.

Three of their players outranked all of our team and their player on

bottom board outranked three of our players as well.

There were excellent draws for Stephen Bonotto on board 2 and Tom Cooke on board 4.

Unfortunately that was all we could muster so the match ended with a 3-1 victory for Pontypridd.

Good luck to them in their next match which will be at home against either Bridgend or Rhondda.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to

players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>. **PHIL JONES**

Barry and District Ladies Skittle League results

THE latest results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for week commencing November 14 are as follows:

Division One:

Allsorts (C Newall 29) 256, SV Gals (J Richards 29) 251; Bobby's Girls (J Barnett 27) 236, Family and Friends (H James 26) 254; Family Affair (C Grubb, V Ahern 28) 256, Bakers Dozen (B

Martin 28) 251; Space Finders (C Cushen 34) 325, Red Admiral (B Perry, S Clements 30) 313; Colcot Ladies (B Wilkins 26) 238, Barry Stars (C Lambeth 29) 268; Coppers (G Reilly, D Nesbitt 32) 330, Special Angels (P Grisdale, B Taylor 32) 282.

Division Two: S V Lights (B Kenefick 34) 307, Roller Coasters (J Mills 29) 288, Castaways (S Billings, J Byrne 28) 274, Cad Con Fillies (B Heard 29) 261, Clickies (E Walters, K Watts 27) 261, Breakaways (L Burnett 36) 326; Airway Angels (L Davies 27) 23, Witchill Widows (M Curry 28) 234; Rhoeuse Starlights (Liz Davies 28) 251, Witchill Weebies (S Hillier 25) 227.

Division Three: Etcetera (K Baker, J Barton 26) 239, Vixens (L Grey 23) 196; Witches (M Allen, P Cookson 24) 236; Rugby Triers (J Davies 29) 250; La Belles (E Cordy 36) 316, Hill Billies (J Lomas 33) 308; S V Ladies (G Griffiths 36) 317, Challengers (P Carpenter 29) 275; Uptown Girls (J Cosslett, J Marsh 24) 297, Westenders (D Andrews 22) 211.

Division Four: Guardian Angels (Nite Overton 26) 242, Nite Outers (L Newman 22) 160; Odd Bods (T Cerian, R Perry 25) 208, Optimists (C George 29) 227.

On and Off The Turf with Brian Lee

VALE trainer Evan Williams had plenty to celebrate at Exeter on Sunday.

His Evening Hush landed the Bathwick Tyres Bridgwater Juvenile Hurdle at odds of 8-1 and 40 minutes or so later his On The Road took the Bathwick Tyres Taunton Handicap Hurdle at the much shorter odds of 13-8.

Evening Hush, a three-year-old filly and a winner on the flat in Tipperary in May, had two-and-a-half lengths to spare over the well fancied Litterale and his six-year-old bay gelding On The Road, who was chalking-up a four-timer, finished three-and-a-half lengths of Samson.

Moloney is riding better than ever since he was sidelined owing to injury earlier this year. **FLINT STRIKES AGAIN**

Vale trainer John Flint had plenty to smile about at Ascot last Friday.

His five-year-old EddieMaurice landed the £18,768 Canaccord Genuity Handicap Hurdle, getting home by a neck from Favourite Girl.

Partnered by Aidan Coleman, EddieMaurice was returned at odds of 9-2.

At Ffos Las, Evan Williams' Gayebury, ridden by Adam Wedge, was a three lengths winner of the opening Totepool Live Info Download APP Maiden Handicap Hurdle, finishing three lengths in front of Forza Milan.

Wedge, riding for Williams at Haydock 24 hours later, took the Read Paul Nicholls Exclusively On Betfair Handicap Hurdle on the top-weighted Clyne, who had seven lengths to spare over the Philip Hobbs-trained Verni.

Six-year-old Clyne, who was racing for the first time in 280 days, was winning for the third time on the trot.

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Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, November 15, a full programme of league matches in the Cowbridge Darts League was completed.

The Edmondson B defeated the Edmondson A 7-2. In this match James Rosser (Edmondson A) by hitting a 110 out became the sixth player to join the 'three-dart-out over 100' club. There was also a high scoring, 76 two-dart-out by Martin Gaffney (Edmondson B).

The Hairy Farmers beat the Victoria Inn 6-3 and the Edmondson C won 5-4 over Llanharry. The Six Bells Inn, after taking a 4-0 early lead, eventually beat the Farmers Arms 5-4.

This allowed the Highwayman Inn to close in on second place by winning 8-1 against the Red Lion.

Present league standings, after eight weeks, are: Edmondson B (51 points), Six Bells Inn (48), Highwayman Inn (47), Edmondson A (40), Llanharry (38), Edmondson C and Hairy Farmers (35), Farmers Arms (34), Victoria Inn (27) and Red Lion (5).

Next week (Tuesday, November 29) the Edmondson Arms will host a mid season finals night. The finals of the following knockout competitions will be played - the Clive Blick Trophy, the Fours and the Mixed Doubles.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cwbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk. **PJT**



WALES 33 PTS JAPAN 30 PTS ROOKIE GETS TEAM OUT OF JAIL



After Welsh rugby's latest rocky horror show produces fresh storm of criticism... Coaches know they have to get things right against Springboks

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

LEFT: Sam Davies' drop goal saves the day. RIGHT: Fukuoka scores the try of the day. BELOW: Jamie Roberts crashes through a wall of defenders to touch down. BELOW, CENTRE: Alun Wyn Jones on the charge to set up skipper Sam Warburton for a try under the posts. BELOW RIGHT: Dan Lydiate grounds the ball for Wales' first try, with Warburton in support.

ALL PICTURES BY THE HUW EVANS AGENCY



"It felt more like a loss... I thought Japan were the better side and deserved to win..."

CARETAKER head coach Robert Howley unwittingly voiced the thoughts of stunned fans in clubs up and down the land, after watching the latest version of Welsh rugby's rocky horror show at a packed out Principality Stadium in Cardiff on Saturday.

With barely six minutes remaining to full time in the third match of the Under Armour Series, the aptly-named 'Brave Blossoms' had capped an impressive, all-action display with a third converted try that would have deservedly earned the so-called international 'minnows' a shock 30-30 draw against a much higher ranked team loaded with British Lions – and had threatened an even greater upset.

This was only avoided, literally on the stroke of full time, by a snap drop goal from 23-year-old replacement outside half Sam Davies. Unaccountably, he had been kept waiting on the sidelines until the 67th minute, before finally being given the coaches' nod to make a belated but decisive

entry that edged his nervy team home 33-30.

Not for the first time this autumn, a woefully misfiring Wales side had been found wanting and the relief on the faces of both players and coaches at the final whistle was palpable, with captain Sam Warburton candidly admitting, "We got out of jail!"

Before last Saturday, Wales had played Japan nine times in full internationals – all but two hopelessly one-sided affairs, including a 98-0 whitewash in Cardiff in autumn 2004 – but all that changed in the Land of the Rising Sun on June 15, 2013.

That was the historic day a certain Eddie Jones, Wales's head coach at the time, engineered a stunning 23-8 victory for the Brave Blossoms over a Wales touring team missing stars on British & Irish Lions duty in his native Australia, but containing several who are still in the present squad.

Now at the helm of high-flying England, who avoided any risk of a giant-killing shock at Twickenham with a 58-15 win over brave but battered Fiji on Saturday, Jones was scathing about the "complacent" Welsh performance against his erstwhile charges.

"When you look at the side Wales put out, they shouldn't be winning by three points against a Japanese team with seven or eight new caps".

True, but complacency may not be the first word that comes to mind for

disenchanted Welsh supporters who have had to endure a succession of sub-standard displays from their national team of late.

It is true, though, that an all too common pattern of costly slow starts is far too easily explained away as a "traditional weakness" that can be rectified later.

That may well have been true when confident Welsh players were sweeping all before them and winning Grand Slams and championships – but not when a team low on confidence is gripped by inertia, often allowing opponents to build a near unassailable lead by half time, as was seen, for example, in the first autumn match against Australia.

While the home team's supine showing that day was, thankfully, not repeated on Saturday, laboured, error-strewn efforts were in stark contrast to the skill and inventiveness shown by livewire visitors who had clearly targeted this game as one they were eminently capable of winning.

That they were more than able to hold their own up front, outplay their hosts behind, and match the three Welsh tries by Dan Lydiate, Jamie Roberts, and Sam Warburton with three of their own, including the pick of them all by flying wing Kenki Fukuoka, spoke volumes.

In the end, the Welsh camp acknowledged that a humiliating defeat had only narrowly

been avoided by the dependable boot of Leigh Halfpenny and that Sam Davies drop goal right at the death.

Inevitably, this latest abject performance has prompted a storm of criticism from all quarters, as national pundits and social media ponder the question of why it is that one of the most talented and successful, Welsh squads of the modern era, has undergone such a drastic decline in its fortunes?

Why is it that this once tightly-knit group who have rightly won praise around the rugby-playing world, have slipped so far below previously high standards, and appear to have lost their way, both tactically and in terms of clinical execution?

There has been much talk of developing a new style, but there has been little evidence so far of a successful transition, with apparent confusion on the field of play as to what the new game plan actually is.

It puts Howley and his embattled fellow coaches firmly in the spotlight as they prepare for the final clash of the autumn series against South Africa in Cardiff on Saturday.

They will be hoping for a vastly improved performance to silence the rising criticism, knowing that victory by itself, though essential, may still not be enough to do so.